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THE  
PILGRIM:  
OR,  
A PICTURE OF LIFE.  
VOL. II.





THE  
PILGRIM:  
OR,  
A PICTURE OF LIFE.  
IN

A SERIES OF LETTERS,  
Written mostly from LONDON by  
A CHINESE PHILOSOPHER,  
TO  
HIS FRIEND AT QUANG-TONG.

CONTAINING  
REMARKS upon the LAWS, CUSTOMS, and MAN-  
NERS of the ENGLISH and other NATIONS.

Illustrated by a Variety of curious and interesting  
ANECDOTES, AND CHARACTERS  
DRAWN FROM REAL LIFE.

*Quicquid agunt Homines, Vetum, Timor, Ira, Voluptas,  
Gaudia, Discursus, nostri est Farrago Libelli.* Juv.

By the EDITOR of CHRYSAL.

L O N D O N:

Printed for T. CADELL, in the Strand; and W. FLEXNEY,  
in Holborn.

THE  
P I L G R I M  
OF  
A PICTURE OF LIFE  
IN  
A SERIES OF LETTERS  
FROM  
A CHINESE TRAVELLER  
TO  
HIS FRIEND AT QUANG TUNG



AND NOTES AND CHARACTERS  
DRAWN FROM REAL LIFE

By the Author of 'The Chinese in London' &c.

By the Editor of 'CHINA' &c.

L O N D O N

Printed by T. Agnew, in the Strand, and W. Taylor,  
in Pall Mall.

THE  
PILGRIM:

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A PICTURE OF LIFE, &c.

LETTER I.

*The Pilgrim* CHOANG  
*To the most illustrious* CHANG-TI  
*Supreme Mandarin of the Province of*  
QUANG-TONG.

**H**OW ingenious is fear to find tortures  
for itself! I was alarmed at being  
sent for by the Ecclesiastical Mandarin,  
because I could not conceive the reason of  
his sending for me. But is not fear always  
the child of ignorance?

I have obeyed the tremendous summons,  
the motive of which was only to ask me  
some questions concerning the writings of



Confutsee. All, before him, who have had a curiosity to see me, have thought proper to come to me ; but he is a learned man ; and such are always of the greatest consequence ; at least in their own eyes.

I found him in a room, the walls of which were covered round with books. He was sitting in a thoughtful posture on a seat of ease, attended by two persons in ecclesiastical habits, one of whom was busied in turning over the leaves of several books, which lay on a large table, while the other wrote down the passages pointed out by the Mandarin.

My entrance, far from interrupting his studies, did not seem even to deserve his notice. He proceeded to dictate to the scribe, while I stood utterly unheeded, so long, that my patience being exhausted, I was preparing to depart ; which one of the attendants mentioning to the Mandarin (as I suppose, for he spoke in a language which I do not understand) he turned his head towards me, and making something like an excuse of his being engaged, desired

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fired me to sit down for a few minutes, at the end of which he should be at leisure to speak to me.

There was somewhat in this manner of reception so different from any thing I had met before, that I knew not what to make of it. However, I thought it best to make a merit of necessity, and therefore waited the great man's leisure, without any farther expression of impatience.

At length, having finished what he was engaged in, or perhaps satisfied his vanity by making me wait so long, he condescended to tell me, that understanding I was a Chinese, of the order of *the learned*, he had sent for me to enquire the opinions of my sect, in certain matters which he had then under speculation; and without waiting for an answer, as if he had a right to my obedience, proceeded to ask me, if I had read all the writings of Confutsee, and what were the subjects of them?

I answered, that not only to have read, but also to understand the writings of that

great man, was indispensable to admission into that Order, of which he had been rightly informed that I was a member; and that the subjects of them were piety and virtue, as contradistinguished by their objects, God and Man.

Pausing a little, I suppose, to give time to the scribe to write down my answer, "These are extensive subjects, (said he) and of importance, if properly treated; but they are not the objects of my enquiry. What age do your records give to the empire of China?"

I answered, that some accounts made it forty thousand revolutions of the seasons; whereas others rejected half that number.

"But what was the opinion of Confutsee? (said he) Which of these accounts did he admit? Or did he reject both, and substitute another of his own?"

I replied, that our great law-giver had never declared any opinion concerning  
matters



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matters of mere speculation, and which could be of no service to mankind to know, even if there was a possibility of knowing them with certainty.

“ Barbarous ignorance ! (said he, directing himself to his attendants) matters of speculation of no service to mankind ! as if any thing of vulgar use could be of equal service with that which gives the amplest field for the display of human reason !”

Then turning to me, “ Twenty thousand years, you say ! (he continued) that is impossible. The world, according to the infallible account of Moses, is not yet eight thousand years old ; nor have there passed full six thousand years, since the human race was reduced to eight persons by the deluge ; so that any reckoning which exceeds that period must be fabulous.

“ What remains, therefore, is to reconcile those fables to this standard of truth ; an attempt which will sufficiently



“refute the illiberal opinion of your law-  
 “giver, That matters of mere speculation  
 “are of no service to mankind.”

Such an insult to a name, which I had ever been taught to hold in the highest respect, raised my resentment. “Pray,  
 “my Lord, (said I, somewhat sharply)  
 “be so good as to let me know what that  
 “service is. Will it add to the duration  
 “of the world, or to the life of any in-  
 “dividual in it? Will it enable him to  
 “live happier himself, or make him a  
 “better member of society? These were  
 “the ends to which Confutsee devoted his  
 “labours.”

Instead of making me any answer, he turned his eyes to his attendants with a smile of contempt, which they reflected back upon me; then addressing himself to me, “Pray how many Dynasties (he con-  
 “tinued) or different ruling families are  
 “reckoned to have been in China?”

“Five! (I answered) those of Ming,  
 “Li,” —

“Hold!

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“ Hold! (he interrupted) I ask not  
“ their designations. And how many  
“ years did each flourish?”

I answered, about four thousand, one  
with another; that is to say, Ming four  
thousand, Li three thousand—

“ Stop! stop! (said he) you are too  
“ hasty! Five Dynasties make twenty  
“ thousand years! that is, about four  
“ thousand each. Very well! The thing is  
“ quite clear! Your chronologers have  
“ mistaken implicit for solid years.  
“ These several families reigned over dif-  
“ ferent provinces of your empire at the  
“ same time; and the ignorance and va-  
“ nity of your historians set them one af-  
“ ter another, stretching the four thousand  
“ years which they reigned together into  
“ twenty thousand, as if each had reigned  
“ four thousand in succession. Nothing  
“ can be clearer; and this brings your  
“ fabulous antiquity within the Mosaic  
“ æra. Nothing can possibly be clearer.”

This was so like the way of reasoning of the political calculator, that I could scarcely refrain from laughing in his face. Commanding my countenance, however, as well as I could for fear of offending his importance, “ We have other modes of  
“ reckoning, (said I) which reduce the  
“ number still lower ; and are not so liable to mistake, as they are founded  
“ on astronomical observations”—

“ I regard them not ! (he returned) ;  
“ amid uncertain opinions I have a right  
“ to chuse that which suits my system best ;  
“ and as I have so clearly reconciled the  
“ other to it, I shall seek no farther.  
“ Pray how long is it since Confucius  
“ lived ? A matter so modern cannot be  
“ uncertain I should suppose.”

“ Not in the least (I answered). He  
“ lived somewhat above two thousand  
“ years ago ; about five hundred years  
“ before the æra from which you reckon.”

“ Right ! (he returned, looking at his  
“ attendants with an exulting smile, to  
“ which



“ which they smiled in assent), nothing  
 “ can be clearer. I have proved it to a  
 “ demonstration. The captivity of the  
 “ ten tribes by Salmanazar had spread  
 “ the doctrines of Moses over the east  
 “ just before; so that it was impossible  
 “ but Confucius must have learned them;  
 “ and thus all his boasted glory returns to  
 “ Moses, its proper owner. He it was  
 “ who was divinely sent to teach wisdom  
 “ to the world, though his honour has  
 “ been unjustly given to others.”

Then observing that I looked surprized,  
 “ These long-concealed truths may pro-  
 “ bably appear strange to you (he con-  
 “ tinued) nor am I now at leisure to en-  
 “ ter into the proof of them; but if you  
 “ will read that book (pointing to one  
 “ which lay upon the table) it will shew  
 “ you, that all the knowledge, all the  
 “ wisdom, and all the virtue among man-  
 “ kind, have been learned from the wri-  
 “ tings of Moses, who was sent imme-  
 “ diately the ambassador of heaven, to  
 “ instruct the world.



“ I wish you were able to translate that  
“ book into the Chinese language. It  
“ would soon deprive Confucius of the  
“ reputation he has so long unjustly en-  
“ joyed, and give those who were capable  
“ of reading it properly, a right to the  
“ appellation of *learned*, which they now  
“ arbitrarily assume. That would be do-  
“ ing more essential service to your coun-  
“ try, than if you could inform them of  
“ the laws, customs, and manners of all  
“ the nations of the earth ”

“ But, (said I, still more piqued at the  
“ subordinate light in which he affected to  
“ place our holy law-giver, whose wisdom  
“ shines over that of other men, like the  
“ sun in the firmament), how is it possible  
“ for you to know, that the wisdom of  
“ Confutsee is derived from the writings  
“ of Moses, before you know what his  
“ wisdom is? You should certainly un-  
“ derstand his writings before you attempt  
“ to judge so definitively of them.”

“ I have not time (he replied, with an  
“ half smile), to bestow upon such matters,  
“ nor

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“ nor is it necessary. I know that all the  
“ knowledge contained in his writings  
“ must have been taken from the writings  
“ of Moses, because I know that all pos-  
“ sible knowledge is comprised in them,  
“ as is sufficiently proved in that book.  
“ Read that, and you will be satisfied.”  
Saying which he dismissed me with a gra-  
cious nod of his head.

As I was returning home, my way hap-  
pening to lead me near the mansion of my  
noble friend, I could not refrain from cal-  
ling upon him, in order to get some in-  
formation of a man, whose tending for me  
on such an occasion, and behaviour while  
I was with him, appeared so unaccount-  
able.

He heard me with a smile, in which I  
could see benevolence struggling with con-  
tempt. “ What pity (said he) that men  
“ cannot preserve consistency of character !  
“ That a man of learning, as he really is,  
“ should suffer vanity so totally to obscure  
“ his judgment !

B 6 “ But

“ But to the humiliation of human  
“ pride, literary vanity is not only the  
“ strongest, but also the most absurd in  
“ its effects. There is no absurdity in  
“ sentiment, or conduct, which a man of  
“ letters does not think himself entitled to  
“ prescribe to imitation by his example.

“ This weakness, however, is not per-  
“ haps so blameable as it may appear at  
“ first view. Spending in study that  
“ time of life in which the manners are  
“ formed, they come out of their cells  
“ perfect strangers to the world and all  
“ its ways; and persuaded of the superior  
“ merit of the acquisitions they have made,  
“ deny all merit to those they have missed,  
“ affecting to treat them with contempt,  
“ because they find it too late to retrieve  
“ their loss; a mistake attended with this  
“ bad consequence, that it obstructs the  
“ advances of learning, by making its  
“ professors ridiculous, as few people look  
“ farther than the first appearance.

“ Had this very person, whose pecu-  
“ liarities raise such a prejudice against  
“ him,



" him, been taught to pay a little atten-  
 " tion to the manners of the age he lives  
 " in, as well as to those of former times,  
 " he would have seen the folly of setting  
 " himself up for a pattern, of holding  
 " himself obliged not only to act, but also  
 " even to think, in a manner different  
 " from the rest of mankind, in order to  
 " shew his superiority over them. But  
 " there is no advantage which is not at-  
 " tended with some inconvenience. He  
 " is really a learned man."

My heart was strongly tempted to in-  
 stance the different advantages of learning  
 in such a man, and in his noble apologist;  
 but fear of giving offence to the true mo-  
 desty of merit prevented me, and I took  
 my leave much better reconciled to learn-  
 ing than when I entered.

LETTER



## LETTER II.

**M**Y friend's relation is at length so well recovered, that he is permitted to converse without restraint. I generally spend some part of the day with him. He professes the highest penitence for his past follies; and as a proof that he intends to reform his future life, has at different times given me the following account of the past:

“ My recollection (said he) can reach  
“ no farther back, than to my being in a  
“ public seminary of education, to the  
“ master of which the care of me was to-  
“ tally committed; for I never knew a  
“ single person, to whom I was related,  
“ till the arrival of your friend from In-  
“ dia; nor do I yet know in what degree  
“ of relation I stand to her. I have no  
“ cause to complain of those to whom my  
“ education was entrusted. They gave as  
“ much attention to me, as the numbers  
“ under their care would permit. But as  
“ their

“ their precepts were not sweetened by the  
 “ endearments of nature, they in a great  
 “ measure failed of their due effect; I  
 “ mean in respect to my conduct.

“ I completed the course of this semi-  
 “ nary with credit; but the vivacity which  
 “ made my studies easy to me, often be-  
 “ trayed me into indiscretions, particu-  
 “ larly in my behaviour to my compani-  
 “ ons, which too often procured me envy  
 “ and ill-will, instead of that affection,  
 “ which taking root in youth, lays the so-  
 “ lidest foundation for friendship through  
 “ life.

“ As I never knew a want, I made no  
 “ enquiries whence I was supplied, till  
 “ the time came for my going to the Uni-  
 “ versity, which I prepared for, without  
 “ apprehension of being disappointed.  
 “ But judge you, what must have been  
 “ my situation! how severe the humilia-  
 “ tion of my soul, when, instead of de-  
 “ parting with my companions, as I ex-  
 “ pected, I was informed that I was destin-  
 “ ed for a different way of life, and must  
 “ quit

“ quit my studies, for some mechanical  
 “ profession!

“ I attempted to remonstrate against  
 “ such severity, but my mouth was stop’d  
 “ with a peremptory declaration, that I  
 “ must either obey, or starve. I was not  
 “ even indulged in the choice of a profes-  
 “ sion. The only thing like tenderness  
 “ which I experienced, was, that my sen-  
 “ tence was pronounced in private; by  
 “ which means I escaped the scoffs and  
 “ insults of my companions, who would  
 “ too probably have rejoiced at so previ-  
 “ ous a mortification to my pride.

“ A sense of this confined me at home,  
 “ where want of other employment made  
 “ me apply to a business which I really  
 “ despised, in such a manner, that I soon  
 “ gained the favour of the person with  
 “ whom I lived, and was treated with re-  
 “ spect, in the narrow circle of my ac-  
 “ quaintance.

“ But all this was the work of necessity,  
 “ not of reason, as I too soon shewed.”

“ As

“ As I was going one morning through  
 “ the Park on some business, for I never  
 “ ventured to walk there at the hours  
 “ when it is frequented by company, for  
 “ fear of meeting any of my former ac-  
 “ quaintances, I was surprised to hear my-  
 “ self called by a name of familiarity,  
 “ which had been given me at the aca-  
 “ demy; and still more so, the moment I  
 “ turned about, to find myself in the  
 “ arms of the only one of all my old com-  
 “ panions, with whom, from a similarity  
 “ in our dispositions, I had always lived  
 “ on the best terms.

“ The tears of joy which glistened in  
 “ my eyes, proved the sincerity with  
 “ which I returned his embrace. He  
 “ asked me, in the most affectionate man-  
 “ ner, how I was? and why I had hid-  
 “ den myself so long from my friends,  
 “ none of whom, he said, forgot me?  
 “ And observing that I blushed at the  
 “ question, ‘ Never mind (said he), let  
 “ us not rip up old grievances. We all  
 “ know, indeed some of us knew it be-  
 “ fore yourself, that you were disappointed  
 “ in



‘ in your expectations of going to the  
 ‘ University, and obliged to betake your-  
 ‘ self to business, and that the shame of  
 ‘ such a fall made you keep from us.  
 ‘ But that was equally unnecessary and  
 ‘ unkind.

‘ Though perhaps some might have  
 ‘ taken an ungenerous advantage of that  
 ‘ opportunity to return the contempt with  
 ‘ which you had often justly treated them,  
 ‘ it would not have lasted for a moment.  
 ‘ One laugh would have put an end to it.  
 ‘ Nor were all of so mean a way of think-  
 ‘ ing, as you will find this evening, which  
 ‘ I insist upon your spending at the tavern  
 ‘ with half a dozen of us, who have stolen  
 ‘ up from college to take a frolic.’

“ Though it gave me pain to look for-  
 “ ward to a meeting, where I must ap-  
 “ pear in a light so different from that in  
 “ which they had always seen me, it was  
 “ not in my power to resist his solicitation,  
 “ or rather the manner in which he made  
 “ them. I had the resolution, however,  
 “ perhaps I should rather say the shame,

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“ to wave discovering where I lived, to  
“ avoid any more solicitations of the kind.

“ As it was the first time I had ever  
“ made such a request, I obtained per-  
“ mission to keep my appointment, with-  
“ out being asked with whom, or where  
“ it was.

“ My reception soon removed the dif-  
“ fidence with which I joined my old com-  
“ panions. They expressed a kind con-  
“ cern for my disappointment; they laugh-  
“ ed at my false modesty; and giving a  
“ loose to the vivacity of youth, desired  
“ me to make up for the time I had lost,  
“ by sharing in their pleasures.

“ This was too agreeable to my own  
“ disposition to be refused. All my re-  
“ solutions of sobriety and diligence va-  
“ nished in an instant, and I not only gave  
“ into, but even took the lead in their  
“ wildest follies, without once thinking of  
“ returning home, till after an absence of  
“ five days, drowned in riot, I saw myself  
“ ad-

“ advertised by name in the public papers,  
“ as lost.

“ Shocked as I was at this incident, it  
“ only afforded my companions matter  
“ for mirth. However, as their frolic  
“ was now at an end, because all their  
“ money was spent, and they were pre-  
“ paring to go back to college, it was ne-  
“ cessary for me to consider what I should  
“ do with myself.

“ But my companions, amid all their  
“ levity, had been beforehand with me.  
“ My friend, so I called him, who had  
“ first brought me among them, calling  
“ me aside, the evening before they were  
“ to set out, told me in few words, that  
“ the whole company was sincerely con-  
“ cerned at my situation; that they thought  
“ the business to which I was bred beneath  
“ me; that they loved me, and desired to  
“ have me among them; and therefore  
“ proposed that I should go with them,  
“ and live as one of themselves, at their  
“ joint expence, till something better should  
“ of-

“ offer; adding, from himself, that in  
 “ case I should not chuse that, he insisted  
 “ on my sharing every shilling he had, as,  
 “ beside his regard for me, he held him-  
 “ self bound, in honour, to repair, in the  
 “ best manner he could, the injury he  
 “ had unwittingly done me, it being im-  
 “ possible for me to think of going back  
 “ to a place where I had been so grossly  
 “ exposed.

“ Though the acceptance of such an  
 “ offer was in reality infinitely more dis-  
 “ graceful than returning home, I was  
 “ not capable of considering it in its pro-  
 “ per light. I complied therefore with-  
 “ out hesitation, and strove to drown re-  
 “ flection in riot.

“ For some little time after my arrival  
 “ at Oxford, my life passed away plea-  
 “ santly enough. But it was not long  
 “ before I began to taste the bitterness  
 “ of dependance.

“ Of



“ Of all slaveries, that to a rambler,  
“ with whom you are supposed to live up-  
“ on a footing at equity, is the most se-  
“ vere. I had no will of my own. I was  
“ obliged to comply with the humours of  
“ my supporters, however ridiculous and  
“ disagreeable to myself; and I soon lost  
“ all relish for pleasures, which I was not  
“ permitted to chuse.

“ Nor was this the only misery I suffer-  
“ ed. As their humours often happened  
“ to differ, whichever I gave into, the  
“ rest affected to take offence; and let me  
“ know that they took it.

“ Such a life was not to be supported  
“ long. My health, unequal to excesses,  
“ which I was never suffered to relax, be-  
“ gan to decline; and my spirits, how-  
“ ever naturally high, sunk under a forced  
“ exertion.

“ My friend saw, and felt for my situa-  
“ tion. He proposed to me to go, and  
“ spend the summer with him at his fa-  
“ ther's; and at our return to the Uni-  
“ versity,

“ versity, to apply myself to study, in  
 “ which he said there was no danger of  
 “ my miscarrying; repeating his offer of  
 “ sharing his subsistence with me, which  
 “ prudently managed, would be suffi-  
 “ ent for us both.

“ I embraced his offer, with equal gra-  
 “ titude and gladness; and can truly say,  
 “ that the time I spent with him, was the  
 “ happiest I have ever seen.

“ On our return to Oxford, we pursued  
 “ our place, without any interruption from  
 “ our former acquaintances, who, on their  
 “ part, gave themselves no trouble to en-  
 “ quire into the motives of a retreat that  
 “ had eased them from an incumbrance, of  
 “ which they were tired.

“ I had spent about a year in this man-  
 “ ner, I flatter myself not altogether un-  
 “ profitably, when an unexpected piece of  
 “ good fortune, as I then thought it, put  
 “ an end to all my schemes of prudence  
 “ and study. This was the death of the  
 “ person, to whose absolute authority I  
 “ found

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“ found myself subject, when I was taken  
 “ from the academy, which put me in the  
 “ possession of two thousand pounds, the  
 “ annual produce of which I now found  
 “ had been my support, while I was there;  
 “ though I could not by any means disco-  
 “ ver to whom I was indebted for it.

“ I instantly communicated my good  
 “ fortune to my friend, and insisted on  
 “ his coming up to town with me, to taste  
 “ the first fruits of it; for I had the stron-  
 “ gest sense of my obligation to him, and  
 “ could not have enjoyed any advantage,  
 “ in which he was not to share.

“ Such a treasure, so far exceeded all  
 “ we had ever been possessed of before,  
 “ that I may truly say, it turned our heads.  
 “ We both thought it inexhaustible; and  
 “ without farther reflection, gave ourselves  
 “ up to every expensive pleasure.

“ This was a scene entirely new to us.  
 “ We took elegant lodgings in the part of  
 “ the town frequented by the politest peo-  
 “ ple. We hired an equipage. We attend-



“ed all public places. In a word, we  
 “exerted our utmost industry to get rid of  
 “our money.

“Nor would our endeavours have been  
 “ineffectual, had not the father of my  
 “friend interfered, who no sooner heard  
 “of his son’s having quitted college than  
 “he followed him directly, and not only  
 “lessened my expence, by taking him  
 “away, but also laid the consequences of  
 “such a life before me, in so strong a light,  
 “that I immediately laid down my state,  
 “and removed into the Temple to study  
 “the law.

“I now awoke as from a dream. Short  
 “as our figuring in high life had been,  
 “it had reduced my finances by more  
 “than half, and convinced me, that they  
 “were far from being inexhaustible, as I  
 “had thought. I remembered the state  
 “of dependance in which I had already  
 “been, and looked back with horror to  
 “the precipice I had so narrowly ef-  
 “caped.



“ The same reason which had formerly  
“ induced me to apply myself to business,  
“ worked the like effect now. I was a-  
“ shamed to see my late associates in ex-  
“ travagance, as I could no longer keep  
“ it up; and therefore read, for want of  
“ knowing how to spend my time, as  
“ much, or probably more, than from  
“ any other motive.

“ But the case was now very different.  
“ The labours of the body are at our own  
“ command; but those of the mind de-  
“ pend upon many circumstances beyond  
“ our power. In spite of all my resolu-  
“ tions, the remembrance of past scenes  
“ would force itself upon me, and take  
“ my attention off from every thing else.

“ The study also, in which I was em-  
“ ployed, was so different from those I  
“ had hitherto dipped into, so little en-  
“ gaging to curiosity, so dark and un-  
“ certain in its advances, that my mind  
“ sickened in the contemplation, and  
“ shrunk back from the pursuit.

“ To

“ To lighten the weight of this dis-  
 “ appointment, I had recourse to the  
 “ amusements most in request among those  
 “ with whom I was now obliged to as-  
 “ sociate. I frequented the play-houses,  
 “ where I made acquaintance with the per-  
 “ formers. I frequented coffee-houses,  
 “ where I learned the technical terms of  
 “ criticism; and I soon assumed the lead  
 “ in both. If a new play was to be per-  
 “ formed, I determined its merit from  
 “ the casting of the parts. If a new per-  
 “ former appeared, I foretold his fate from  
 “ his figure, before he ever spoke a word.

“ Nor was my judgment founded solely  
 “ on these common grounds. Nature  
 “ had given me something of a poetical  
 “ turn, to the cultivation of which I had  
 “ principally directed my studies at the  
 “ University; beside which I had the still  
 “ greater advantage over my competitors  
 “ in criticism, of having my salute re-  
 “ turned by people of the first fashion,  
 “ whenever I thought proper to appear in  
 “ the boxes, in my late character, to

C 2

“ support

“ support which I had preserved some  
“ remnants of my finery.

“ But the superiority which this gave  
“ me, however pleasing for the moment,  
“ was far from satisfying my ambition.

“ I aspired to an higher rank in the li-  
“ terary world than merely that of a the-  
“ atrical critic. I commenced philosopher  
“ on the easiest terms, by declaring a so-  
“ vereign contempt for every opinion held  
“ in respect by the more serious part of  
“ mankind, placing true wisdom in abso-  
“ lute infidelity ; I ridiculed the distinction  
“ between moral good and evil ; I called  
“ virtue a phantom, religion a cheat, and  
“ bid defiance to the Deity.

“ I soon began to find that this freedom  
“ of speech was not unattended by its in-  
“ conveniencies. I was shunned by those  
“ with whom I wished to associate, and  
“ forced to associate with sycophants,  
“ whom I despised, and whose poverty  
“ made their company an expence, but  
“ badly suited to my circumstances, which  
“ de-



“ declined every day, since I had devoted  
 “ to argumentation the hours I had be-  
 “ fore spent in study.

“ Poverty now advanced towards me  
 “ with hasty strides ; nor did I see any  
 “ way to escape it, except by marriage.  
 “ But then I feared that my character  
 “ of infidelity, which had made my com-  
 “ pany shunned by the men, would have  
 “ a still stranger effect to my prejudice  
 “ with the other sex.

“ To remedy this, therefore, and add,  
 “ as I thought, the surest string to my  
 “ bow, I resolved to run directly into the  
 “ opposite extreme.

“ For this purpose I went once or twice,  
 “ as if out of mere curiosity, to a con-  
 “ venticle, where several people of con-  
 “ dition go to hear a popular preacher,  
 “ and feigning to be struck with some-  
 “ thing I heard, I desired a conference  
 “ with the preacher, in which I not only  
 “ suffered myself to be overcome, but



“ also renounced my former infidelity, as  
“ on the most perfect conviction.

“ This regularly prepared the way for  
“ my frequenting the conventicle with the  
“ best grace, where I flattered myself, on  
“ the strength of many examples, that I  
“ should not fail to pick up a wife to my  
“ purpose; but I soon found that the bu-  
“ siness had been overdone, and that such  
“ women, as were worth looking after,  
“ were themselves as much upon the look-  
“ out for an advantageous match, as the  
“ neediest fortune-hunter of us all.

“ But though my matrimonial scheme  
“ was thus defeated, I was not entirely  
“ disappointed of the end of my con-  
“ version. My character of sobriety re-  
“ commended me to the acquaintance of  
“ a set of old dowagers, who having mar-  
“ ried in their youth, from motives of in-  
“ terest, now made themselves amends  
“ by applying the acquisitions of that state  
“ of legal prostitution to the purchase of  
“ those pleasures of which it had defrauded  
“ them.

“ But,

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“ But, luxuriously as I lived for the  
“ present, and well as I was generally re-  
“ warded for my labours, this was but a  
“ temporary resource at the best, these  
“ votaries of Venus being too experienced  
“ ever to make their favourites independ-  
“ ant; beside the business soon began to  
“ pall upon me, to such a degree, that  
“ my indifference was perceived, and I  
“ turned out of favour.

“ Not that I lamented my disgrace. I  
“ thought poverty, in all its horrors, pre-  
“ ferable to affluence earned by such a  
“ state of the most odious, as well as in-  
“ famous slavery. At some other time I  
“ may perhaps entertain you with some of  
“ the secrets of my prison-house, the orgies  
“ of this set of antiquated Bacchanals.

“ I attempted to find a resource in writ-  
“ ing; but the vigour of my mind had  
“ sunk with my fortune, to such a degree,  
“ that I could do nothing even to please  
“ myself.

“ In this state I saw the precipice over  
“ which I hung, but knew not whither to  
“ turn me from it. I therefore grew sul-  
“ len, and disclaimed all hope, placing my  
“ sole consolation in the thought, that  
“ when it should no longer be in my  
“ power to live with satisfaction, the road  
“ to death lay open to me; though even  
“ this wretched consolation I could never  
“ find, till reason and reflection were  
“ drowned in wine.

“ Whether I should have been despe-  
“ rate enough to put this resolution in  
“ practice I cannot say. Your friend’s  
“ arrival from India saved me from the  
“ dreadful trial. How I have hitherto  
“ abused such mercy you too well know.  
“ But my eyes are now opened, and what-  
“ ever time heaven shall vouchsafe to add  
“ to my life, shall be devoted to its ser-  
“ vice.”

O, friend of my heart, what an history  
is this of a life which has not yet com-  
pleted three and twenty years! His  
peni-

tence at present seems to be sincere; but after having been so long hacknied in vice, it will require a length of time to confirm him in the practice of virtue beyond danger of a relapse.



## LETTER III.

**I** HAVE informed you of the freedom with which the sexes converse in this country, both before and after the matrimonial bond; and hinted the consequences, which to my apprehension must necessarily arise from it. An event has happened lately, which however new to you and me, should appear by the indifference with which it is treated here, to be no more than a common occurrence, and proves that my apprehensions were not groundless.

I went yesterday evening with my friend to one of those public meetings, which are held in private houses, the respect paid to the mistresses of which is measured by the greatness of the crowds attending them. At these places, as many of the company (if such an appellation may be given to a mixed multitude) as can find room, engage in play; while the rest divide into parties, and communicate their remarks on every

## THE PILGRIM. 35

every thing and person round them, generally with much more severity, than regard to truth or good-nature.

As I understand not the games play'd at here, I have an opportunity of attending to the conversation of the different companies, which mostly turns upon the story of the day, and consequently throws the strongest light upon the manners of the people.

The universal topic, this evening, was the elopement of a young female of quality, from her husband.

All her own sex condemned, though not with equal severity, while the men all pitied, or palliated her offence.

This difference in their sentiments appeared to me so unnatural, that even here I was struck by it with surprize. I could not conceive why those whose dearest concern it was to prevent such crimes, should treat them with lenity, while the others, who could be no sufferers, and might be

C 6

thought

thought to sympathize, should be so severe. With us, I know, the case would have been directly the reverse.

On mentioning this to my friend, after our return, she smiled at my surprize, which she said proceeded from my judging that all people spoke their sentiments with the same sincerity as I do myself; whereas the only safe rule of judging, was to consider which might be the interest of the person, to speak truth or falsehood, and then to conclude from that.

“ In this instance, she continued, the  
 “ women all condemned her, to divert  
 “ suspicion from themselves, though it is  
 “ too probable, that many of them had  
 “ been equally criminal; as the men on  
 “ the other hand affected to pity her, and  
 “ extenuated her guilt, in order to encourage others, upon whom they may have  
 “ a like design to commit it. Were they  
 “ to speak their real sentiments, the judgment here would be the same as in your  
 “ country; for the sentiments of nature  
 “ are every where the same.

“ As



“ As to the unhappy person, who was  
“ the subject of their remarks, her case is  
“ truly to be pitied ; and were it possible  
“ for any provocation to justify a crime,  
“ she can plead the strongest.

“ In the beginning of my life I was ac-  
“ quainted with her mother. She was  
“ one of the very few acquaintances of  
“ mine, who merited my respect ; but as  
“ she did not live to receive it, at my re-  
“ turn, I thought it my duty to pay to her  
“ daughter the tenderness which I had re-  
“ ceived from her in the day of my dis-  
“ tress.

“ For this reason, as soon as I heard of  
“ her misfortune, I waived that false de-  
“ licacy, which too often prevents our sex  
“ from doing acts of beneficence to those  
“ who stand in greatest need of it, and  
“ went to her. The motive changes the  
“ nature of such a visit. Charity never  
“ fears infection, in attending upon the  
“ sick.

“ Such



“ Such a step was so uncommon, that  
“ she knew not from what motive it could  
“ proceed, and therefore received me with  
“ the greatest reserve.

“ But the tears of sympathy, which  
“ from the fulness of my heart I shed  
“ over her misfortunes, soon removed her  
“ diffidence. The stranger’s consolation  
“ was welcome to her sick soul. She  
“ opened herself to me, as to her physi-  
“ an, and gave me the following account  
“ of her fall, which I shall repeat in her  
“ own words, as soon as I shall have  
“ made a few prefatory remarks, necessa-  
“ ry to set some parts of it in their proper  
“ light to you.

“ You have already taken notice of the  
“ freedom with which the sexes converse  
“ in this country. The difference of cus-  
“ toms must certainly make this appear  
“ the more extraordinary in your eyes;  
“ and may probably have suggested infe-  
“ rences from it, by no means favourable  
“ to us, though your complaisance would  
“ not

“ not permit your mentioning them to  
“ me.

“ But what would you think were you  
“ to know the manner in which our sex  
“ is prepared for so dangerous a conflict?  
“ instead of instilling into their tender  
“ minds the principles of prudence, piety,  
“ and virtue, the first thing impressed up-  
“ on them is the necessity of their pleasing  
“ the other sex, as if that was the only  
“ end of their creation.

“ For this purpose, their whole youth  
“ is spent in acquiring those exterior ac-  
“ complishments which are calculated sole-  
“ ly to strike sense, and raise desire.

“ Nor can the other sex with justice  
“ complain of this error. Fascinated by  
“ these allurements, the very men who ex-  
“ pect the most rigid virtue in the married  
“ state, look no farther than to them to  
“ fix their choice; never reflecting that  
“ the time, which should have been de-  
“ voted to informing the mind, had been  
“ wasted in embellishing the body with  
“ these

“ these accomplishments, which in their  
 “ very nature counteract the principles of  
 “ that virtue they require.

“ As soon as this unhappy mourner had  
 “ wiped away the tear which always ac-  
 “ companied the thought of her misfor-  
 “ tunes, she began thus :

\* \* \* \* \*

‘ I do not presume to trouble you with  
 ‘ the following melancholy detail, in order  
 ‘ to justify a crime which my own soul  
 ‘ condemns. All I hope from it is, to  
 ‘ shew that I was not criminal from princi-  
 ‘ ple, by tracing the steps which led to my  
 ‘ crime, and thereby prove myself not so  
 ‘ utterly unworthy of the compassion you  
 ‘ have shewn me, as I may be thought by  
 ‘ those who are unacquainted with the cir-  
 ‘ cumstances of my unhappy story.

‘ The fortune of my family being by  
 ‘ the various revolutions in the govern-  
 ‘ ment of our country reduced far beneath  
 ‘ our rank, my father spared neither pains  
 ‘ nor expence to give me such an educa-  
 ‘ tion as might be the means of raising  
 ‘ me,



me, by marriage, to that station of which his partial fondness thought my natural endowments not unworthy.

As soon as I was supposed to be sufficiently accomplished, I was brought hither, as to the scene most proper for carrying the designs formed for me into execution, where, among the various persons to whom I was exhibited, in that circle of polite life, into which I was introduced to put me in fortune's way, it was my fate to attack the inclinations of one, who, after sacrificing his youth and health to the acquisition of immense wealth, amidst the dissipations and debaucheries of the times, which he had a peculiar art of turning to his own advantage, had taken the prudent resolution of quitting the pursuit of pleasures, which he was no longer able to enjoy, and dedicating the residue of his days to conjugal happiness and retirement. Vain presumption! his mind was as much broken as his modes; and he had no more taste for the pleasures of reason, than power for those of sense.

“ But



‘ But though a single view of his wasted  
‘ figure, a single thought of his past life  
‘ must have made this evident, the ad-  
‘ vantage in point of fortune, the only  
‘ advantage ever thought of in marriage  
‘ on the female side, was so great, that  
‘ my friends received his addresses with  
‘ joy, and gave me to him, without once  
‘ enquiring, or indeed even caring, whe-  
‘ ther my heart went along with my hand  
‘ or not.

‘ Not that I should have refused had I  
‘ been consulted. I had no other attach-  
‘ ment, and I had been ever taught to  
‘ think that wealth was the only source  
‘ of happiness, as it alone could procure  
‘ respect, alone support that profusion and  
‘ pomp of pride which were the universal  
‘ objects of pursuit. But experience soon  
‘ opened my eyes, and nature taught me  
‘ another lesson.

‘ The day of our inauspicious nuptials,  
‘ my husband, pursuant to his prudential  
‘ plan, set out directly from the Temple  
‘ to his country seat, on which it must be  
‘ owned

‘ owned he had spared no expence to  
‘ make it pleasing.

‘ But all was in vain. The lawns soon  
‘ lost their beauty, the blossoms their per-  
‘ fume; and the eye turned away with in-  
‘ difference from prospects become fami-  
‘ liar.

‘ We were both disappointed. Some-  
‘ thing more than the bare pleasures of  
‘ speculation were wanted. He felt his  
‘ own unhappiness! He saw, but could  
‘ not remove mine. Our souls sunk into  
‘ a gloomy vacancy, which the insipid  
‘ sameness of such a scene was unable to  
‘ enliven.

‘ While I languished in this state of  
‘ apathy, a relation of my husband’s came  
‘ to return him thanks for an act of the  
‘ most essential friendship and advantage.

‘ It was the first time I had seen him ;  
‘ nor did his appearance strike me in the  
‘ least in his favour ; yet I know not how  
‘ it was, but I felt something which I  
‘ could

‘ could not account for on receiving his  
‘ salute. My better angel, I believe,  
‘ whispered to my soul, to beware of him.

‘ He was clumsy, awkward, and hard-  
‘ featured; unpolished in his manners,  
‘ indelicate in his sentiments. But then  
‘ he was young, healthy, and robust. In  
‘ a word, he was the reverse of my hus-  
‘ band in every respect; and the conse-  
‘ quence of the instantaneous comparison,  
‘ which it was not possible for me to avoid  
‘ making between them, may be easily  
‘ conceived.

‘ I over-looked the want of personal  
‘ beauty and polite accomplishments, be-  
‘ cause I had found by sad experience  
‘ that they were insufficient to make me  
‘ happy; while I admired his youth,  
‘ health, and strength, because I had no  
‘ experience of such things.

‘ My husband, who had observed my  
‘ eyes often glance backward and forward  
‘ between him and his cousin, judged what  
‘ I was about, and seemed not a little  
‘ pleased

‘ pleased at a comparison, which he was  
 ‘ confident must prove so much to his own  
 ‘ advantage.

‘ Accordingly, as soon as the other  
 ‘ withdrew, he advanced to me with an  
 ‘ exulting smile, and patting me affectedly  
 ‘ on the cheek ; ‘ I saw your comparisons  
 ‘ (said he) and the disrespect with  
 ‘ which they inspired you against my  
 ‘ cousin ; but you are too unreasonable to  
 ‘ expect that all men should be alike.

‘ He has not had the advantages of  
 ‘ education, nor been in the polite world  
 ‘ to form his address and model his figure,  
 ‘ but he has a good head, and will improve  
 ‘ in time, now that I have given him a  
 ‘ footing ; and what you perhaps may  
 ‘ laugh at, with all that uncouth rust city,  
 ‘ he has qualifications, upon which he  
 ‘ builds the most sanguine hopes of mak-  
 ‘ ing his fortune with the fair sex ; and, I  
 ‘ think, not improbably.’

‘ There is nothing more dangerous for  
 ‘ a man, than to raise a curiosity in his  
 ‘ wife,



‘ wife, the gratification of which can possibly be to his disadvantage. ]

‘ This information of my husband’s  
‘ set my wits directly to work to find out  
‘ what these qualifications could be ; and  
‘ as it was impossible for me to be certain,  
‘ I was left at liberty to guess.

‘ In the mean time my new acquaintance appeared less and less disagreeable every day. I thought I saw through his plainness a sincerity much more worthy of esteem, than all that grimace which is called politeness ; and the experience I had of my husband’s infirmities, made the other’s want of delicacy appear amply made amends for by his health.

‘ He had not been with us long, when my husband, quite sick of his retirement, made a pretence of business to return hither, to the enjoyment of the only pleasures for which he had a taste, leaving me to the care of his relation.

‘ As

‘ As I had no pleasure in his company,  
 ‘ his absence gave me no pain ; nor did I  
 ‘ concern myself whither he went, or for  
 ‘ what purpose.

‘ But such a state of indifference did  
 ‘ not suit the designs of my new guardian.  
 ‘ From the hour of my husband’s departure  
 ‘ he totally changed his behaviour.  
 ‘ His roughness was softened into respect.  
 ‘ I never caught his eye, but it glistened  
 ‘ with compassion ; and a sigh constantly  
 ‘ accompanied the words, base ! cruel !  
 ‘ unnatural ! which seemed to steal from  
 ‘ him, as I entered or departed the room.

‘ It was impossible not to be alarmed  
 ‘ at such a conduct. I begged, I insisted  
 ‘ with such earnestness upon his explaining  
 ‘ himself to me, that seeming at length  
 ‘ to be overcome by my entreaties, he told  
 ‘ me, that my husband was returned hither  
 ‘ to a mistress, whom he preferred to  
 ‘ me, and who had obtained a promise  
 ‘ from him, that I should be kept a prisoner  
 ‘ where I was for my life, that my  
 ‘ presence might not interrupt their pleasures ;

‘ fures; to accustom me by degrees to  
‘ which, he was to remain with me for  
‘ some little time, but that he abhorred  
‘ the thought, and did not hold himself  
‘ bound by honour to keep so base a se-  
‘ cret.

‘ The effect which this story had upon  
‘ me, need not be told. Instead of jea-  
‘ lousy, it raised my resentment. Though  
‘ I regarded not his love, I could not bear  
‘ to be slighted.

‘ My new friend saw my situation, and  
‘ resolved to avail himself of it. As the  
‘ scene was now opened, he directly en-  
‘ larged his plan of proceedings. To his  
‘ reproaches of my husband’s injustice, he  
‘ added such scoffs at his insensibility to  
‘ his own happiness, as raised emotions I  
‘ had never felt before, till in the end I fell  
‘ a victim to his base designs.

‘ It is impossible to express what I felt  
‘ on the return of reason. All my guilt  
‘ stared me in the face. I accused him,  
‘ myself, and Heaven, which had with-  
‘ drawn



' drawn its protection from me in the hour  
 ' of danger, and should certainly have put  
 ' an end to a life I detested, had he not  
 ' snatched the dagger from my hand !

' When nature could no longer support  
 ' the violence of my emotions, he took  
 ' advantage of the involuntary calm, to  
 ' expostulate with me, but not in the  
 ' soothing terms which had led me to ruin :  
 ' he charged the blame entirely upon my-  
 ' self, alledging that he had sacrificed his  
 ' own honour to my revenge, for a wo-  
 ' man's honour he treated as all grimace ;  
 ' adding, that since what was passed, could  
 ' not be recalled, all that remained for us  
 ' now was, to keep our own secret, and the  
 ' world would know nothing of the mat-  
 ' ter.

' I saw that recrimination was in vain,  
 ' and therefore throwing off all further  
 ' care of myself, suffered him to continue  
 ' the guilty commerce, from meer de-  
 ' spair.



‘ We had not persisted long thus, when  
‘ a letter from my husband, giving notice  
‘ of his speedy return, obliged the other  
‘ to open his whole scheme. The news  
‘ struck me with horror not to be described.  
‘ Gracious heaven! I exclaimed, What  
‘ will become of me? O that the earth  
‘ would gape and swallow me up this mo-  
‘ ment! I will meet death in any shape  
‘ rather than ever see his face. I will fly to  
‘ the end of the world! I will meet death  
‘ in any shape rather than see his face!’

‘ Madam, he returned, alarmed at my  
‘ transports, this madness will only make  
‘ bad worse. I have told you before,  
‘ that while we keep our secret we are  
‘ safe. I will add now, that it will be our  
‘ own fault, if we do not make this affair  
‘ turn out to our mutual advantage.

‘ What I have said of your husband’s  
‘ preferring another woman to you, was  
‘ all feigned to induce your compliance  
‘ with a passion which I was not able to  
‘ resist. He regards you, and therefore  
‘ will not fail to give you every proof in  
‘ his

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his power of that regard. You must  
avail yourself of this to get from him  
every thing you can, particularly jewels,  
which his vanity, as much as his regard,  
will not let him refuse you.

Nor is this all : When you return to  
town, I will find persons who will lend  
you any money you desire, as his abi-  
lities to pay is sufficiently known ; as  
soon as we shall by which means have  
made provision for our support in an-  
other country, I will gladly fly with you.  
At present it were madness. We have  
not wherewith to defray the expence of  
travelling, much less to live abroad.  
We must therefore put a good face up-  
on the affair till that happy day comes.  
The stealth will make our joys the  
sweeter.

Astonishment, rage, and detestation  
of such villainy, made me unable to  
interrupt him till he had finished his in-  
famous proposal, which shewed me all  
the baseness of his heart, and that I had

‘ been the wretched dupe of his avarice,  
‘ more than of the passion he pretended.

‘ I took my resolution, therefore, in  
‘ an instant; nor could all his arguments,  
‘ his threats, and intreaties, bend me from  
‘ it. I rejected his horrid proposal with  
‘ disdain, and insisted that he should, that  
‘ very night, set off with me for this  
‘ city, and give me up to my own family,  
‘ or I would reveal the whole of his villainy to my husband.

‘ This was an hard alternative; but he  
‘ saw that I was not to be moved. The  
‘ manner in which he complied would, at  
‘ another time, have alarmed me for my  
‘ life; but I disregarded that, and every  
‘ thing else, in comparison with meeting  
‘ my husband.

‘ It cannot be thought that our journey  
‘ was very pleasing. However, we reached  
‘ the last stage without accident, and,  
‘ I believe, wished equally for the end,  
‘ to separate us for ever. But that was a  
‘ wish



‘ with which the justice of heaven did not  
‘ think fit to grant.

‘ As it was so late, that I could not  
‘ expect admittance that night where I  
‘ meant to take refuge, we were under a  
‘ necessity of stopping till the next morn-  
‘ ing.

‘ Our fatigue making us want rest more  
‘ than any other refreshment, we soon re-  
‘ tired; but rest was a blessing which I  
‘ was not yet to taste. I had scarcely laid  
‘ my wretched head upon the pillow,  
‘ when I heard the voice of my husband,  
‘ who, after once or twice demanding  
‘ entrance in vain, burst into the room.

‘ What happened after I know not, as  
‘ I instantly lost my senses; nor recovered  
‘ them till the next day, when I found  
‘ myself in this place with a friend of my  
‘ mother’s, who did not refuse to give  
‘ shelter to my distress; nor do I know  
‘ yet what is to be my fate. Will you  
‘ forgive me, if I add, that I do not even  
‘ care? My only wish is to be delivered,



‘ without further guilt, from a life which  
‘ is become a burthen to me.

‘ The reason of our being thus sur-  
‘ prised was, that my husband returned  
‘ unexpectedly within a few hours after  
‘ our departure, when he was soon in-  
‘ formed of what we thought a secret  
‘ known only to ourselves, and therefore  
‘ directly set out in pursuit of us.

‘ My seducer, I understand, made his  
‘ escape out of a window naked; but  
‘ what has become of him since I have not  
‘ heard, nor desire ever to hear. It is  
‘ impossible that any fate can befall him  
‘ worse than that which he deserves.’

\* \* \* \* \*

“ Such (said my friend, as soon as she  
“ had wiped away the tear which naturally  
“ followed this tale of woe) is the account  
“ given to me by this unhappy woman of  
“ her fall; a woman whom nature cer-  
“ tainly blessed with endowments deserving  
“ a better fate, had not her blessings been  
“ marred

“ marred by those who should have directed them to their proper end.

“ Had equal care been taken of the improvement of her mind as of her body; had the true end of matrimony been alluded to in matching her with a proper mate, she would in all probability have been an ornament to her sex, and a blessing to her family. But while such ends are pursued, such will be the event, be the means what they will.

“ As to her infatuated husband, or her base seducer, I say nothing to them. The former met the reward he merited by his folly, in making such an unequal marriage. The latter, it is to be hoped, will also meet the just reward of his accumulated villainy. Whether that proceeded from his education I pretend not to say; as, far from knowing in what manner men are actuated, it is but in very few that the least traces of any kind of education are to be found.”

Is not this a severe remark? Let me hope that it is too severe. I will observe farther before I assent to it, equally high as I hold the justice and the judgment of my friend. Her resentment was justly raised by so black an instance of baseness; and we are all too apt to judge from particulars, when under the influence of passion.

LETTER

## LETTER IV.

**O**F all the various means of living, devised by this sharp-witted people, that which appears most extraordinary to me is, the trade of book-making.

I have already mentioned to you a visit paid to me by an author. I have lately received another from a bookseller, which has given me a farther insight into this mysterious matter.

After the common apologies for intrusion, this sage midwife to the mind took occasion, from seeing a book lie open before me, to ask some questions concerning the state of literature in my country, which, he said, he supposed must be at a low ebb, as he understood that we had very few books among us.

I answered, that writing in this country and in ours was a very different matter, as it required more time for us barely to



learn how to represent our ideas in writing, than was thought sufficient here, to acquire a fund of knowledge worthy of being written ; for which reason, very few of us attempt to write upon any subjects which require expressions out of the common uses of life ; and those only such as, by the early ripeness of their parts, give so promising hopes, as encourage our learned men to train them regularly to study from the first opening of the mind.

“ That is strange ! (said he), very  
“ strange ! And pray do not any others  
“ write, beside those who are trained to  
“ it ?”

I answered, not, nor even all of those ; as many of them die before they can finish their studies.

“ But (he returned) may not others  
“ write if they have an inclination ?”

“ And are able, you should add (I re-  
“ plied) ; but even these, if any such  
“ there are, are not permitted. Every  
“ man

“ man among us must stick to the pro-  
 “ fession he is bred to.”

“ But, my dear Sir, (said he), is not  
 “ that a great curb to genius ? I am sure,  
 “ if matters were managed so here, we  
 “ should have as few writers among us as  
 “ you.

“ As to sticking to a profession, we  
 “ never regard that. The very contrary  
 “ is the case with us. Our writers are a  
 “ collection out of every profession. The  
 “ truth is, when a man finds that he can  
 “ do nothing in the profession he was bred  
 “ to, he directly commences writer.  
 “ That is a profession open to all. Do  
 “ you think that all the clergymen, law-  
 “ yers, and physicians, whom you see  
 “ strolling our streets, live by their re-  
 “ spective professions ? Far from it. For  
 “ one who does, ten live by writing ; and  
 “ indeed it is well for the public that they  
 “ have such a resource, or else Lord have  
 “ mercy upon our lives and properties ;  
 “ we should all be ruined or poisoned—  
 “ I mean, if we were obliged to find sup-

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“ port in their professions for all the law-  
 “ yers and physicians. As for the clergy,  
 “ theirs is an harmless profession at least.  
 “ While they stick to that, they can hurt  
 “ nobody. But it is overstocked, Sir;  
 “ quite overstocked. Surely, confining  
 “ men to their own professions must be a  
 “ terrible hindrance to genius.”

“ Perhaps it may, in some instances (I  
 “ answered); but I am not certain, whe-  
 “ ther, even so, it may not be an advantage  
 “ upon the whole. If it may deprive us  
 “ of a few good writers, it certainly saves  
 “ us from a much greater number of bad;  
 “ and we hold it better to have an inge-  
 “ nious discovery delayed for a time, than  
 “ a deluge of errors poured out upon the  
 “ world, as must be the case where people  
 “ write without being properly qualified  
 “ for so difficult an undertaking.”

“ There may possibly be something in  
 “ what you say, Sir, (said he), but that  
 “ is not the matter upon which I have  
 “ taken the liberty of waiting upon you  
 “ this morning.

“ I un-



## THE PILGRIM. 61

“ I understand that you have been ap-  
“ plied to by an author to countenance a  
“ work, which he says he has in hand.  
“ Now, Sir, I think it incumbent upon  
“ me, as an honest man, to prevent your  
“ being imposed upon. That man never  
“ executes any proposal. He has taken  
“ in the town so often with his subscrip-  
“ tions, that the trick is grown stale.  
“ Beside, even if he were to write, he is  
“ incapable of doing any thing which  
“ would not be a discredit to you to pa-  
“ tronize; and for that reason has been  
“ turned off by all the trade, one after an-  
“ other.

“ But, Sir, if you have a desire to ap-  
“ pear in the literary world with that cre-  
“ dit which I am confident you deserve, I  
“ can put you in the certain way.

“ A gentleman of great abilities, who  
“ writes for me, has just finished a work  
“ of such merit, as cannot fail of being  
“ received with the highest respect, which  
“ he is ambitious of sending into the world  
“ under your patronage. He would have  
“ waited



“ waited upon you himself with the de-  
 “ dication, but unluckily he cannot come  
 “ abroad at this time. However, I know  
 “ his mind, and that he will be satisfied  
 “ with a moderate gratification, as he is  
 “ above mercenary views in any thing.”

“ And pray, Sir, (said I, resolving to  
 “ see how far he would carry this curious  
 “ affair) what may the nature of the  
 “ work be?”

“ It is, Sir, (he answered) a kind of  
 “ Essay on the Origin of Civil Society, I  
 “ think, or some such thing. I really do  
 “ not very well know what the title is to  
 “ be, as that is not settled yet; but I am  
 “ certain that it is a work of great merit,  
 “ from what I have read of it.”

“ I thought you said it was finished,” I  
 returned.

“ Yes, Sir, (he replied) it has been  
 “ finished some time; we only waited for  
 “ a proper opportunity of publishing it.”

“ But,

“ But, (I added) is it customary to finish the work before the title? I thought the general idea, which must certainly suggest the title, was formed before the work was begun.”

“ Not at all, Sir, (he answered) not at all! The title, preface, and dedication, are the last parts of a book which are written. The author always ends where the reader begins; except indeed where we give a title to be written to; for, to tell you a secret, Sir, it is we who mostly make the titles, as we must be presumed to know best what will strike the public; for, let me tell you, Sir, a good title often helps off a book, which would have hung horridly without such an help.”

“ I should judge, from what you say of the nature of this work (said I) that the author is a lawyer. It seems to come within the view of his profession.”

“ As for that, dear Sir, (he answered with a smile) the profession of an author,

“ thor, as I said before, signifies nothing  
“ at all to his works. This gentleman is  
“ a clergyman; and to explain the matter  
“ still farther, I have, at this very mo-  
“ ment, a lawyer writing a Commentary  
“ on the Bible, which I publish weekly  
“ with good success.

“ But, Sir, will you give me leave to  
“ ask, what you think of this gentleman’s  
“ proposal? I hope it is not disagreeable  
“ to you? The dedication will come with  
“ greater propriety to you than to any  
“ other person; because he very frequently  
“ makes honourable mention of your  
“ country.

“ Or, if you would chuse to go a step  
“ farther, and publish the work itself, as  
“ entirely your own, I am sure the gen-  
“ tleman would give you the honour of  
“ it on very moderate terms; and it would  
“ be impossible for the thing ever to be  
“ discovered, as not one man living has  
“ ever seen the copy but myself; and you  
“ may be assured I will keep the secret,  
“ for my own interest, as I shall hope for  
“ the



“ the honour of publishing the book.  
 “ No offence, Sir! I hope you take no  
 “ offence at my freedom.”

I answered, that it would be unjust in me to take offence at what he said, as a desire of fame was natural to all men; but that I apprehended this must be an unusual manner of seeking it.

“ Not in the least, Sir, (he replied)  
 “ there is no manner more common;  
 “ how else do you imagine we should  
 “ have so many gentlemen of fortune,  
 “ and lords, celebrated for their writings?  
 “ Do you think that they write the works  
 “ which bear their names? Not at all.  
 “ They buy them in this manner from  
 “ writers, who prefer something in hand,  
 “ something solid, to that airy bubble,  
 “ fame. I know a gentleman at this  
 “ time, who lives comfortably by writing,  
 “ though he never publishes a single line  
 “ in his own name. There is nothing in  
 “ the world more common.”

I an-



I answered, that I could have no doubt of the truth of any thing he said ; but that as my stay was to be but short in this part of the world, I did not think it worth while to be at the expence of purchasing fame, which I could not enjoy ; as the names of the [most celebrated writers in this country never reach so far as to ours.

“ And pray, Sir, (said he laughing)  
“ who does enjoy fame ? For my part I  
“ think it seldom comes till after a man is  
“ dead, except a writer praises himself, or  
“ is able to pay others for praising him ;  
“ and that is much the same with going  
“ into another part of the world. I beg  
“ pardon ! but I believe there is as little  
“ communication kept up with the other  
“ world as with China.

“ However, Sir, if you have a mind  
“ to make a name among us, the matter  
“ of expence shall not prevent you. I  
“ told you that the gentleman is not mercenary : I dare say he will publish his  
“ work in your name, without any other  
“ consideration than merely the pleasure  
“ of

“ of obliging a person for whom he bears  
“ so high a respect.”

This was a new attack ; however I was  
proof to it. I answered, that I could ne-  
ver submit to that ; to let him be a suf-  
ferer by his obliging me.

This repulse obliged him to open his  
whole scheme.

“ Why really, Sir, (he returned) to deal  
“ plainly with you ; as I see you are a  
“ person of worth, and understanding, the  
“ gentleman will be very well satisfied  
“ with the sanction of your name to his  
“ work, as it will ensure the sale of it. If  
“ he could have got something beside,  
“ you could not have blamed him. But  
“ as it is, he will be content with that  
“ alone. Not that the work wants merit,  
“ in any respect ; but the author is not  
“ yet known ; and on the name of an au-  
“ thor very often depends the fate of his  
“ work.”

The

The confidence with which he said this, shewed that he was sure of success; but for once he was disappointed. I told him that to deal as plainly with him, I could not by any means answer the gentleman's expectations; as I thought fame acquired in that manner was the lowest infamy. Beside, I was far from having the vanity to think my name could possibly have the weight he said; though even if I were sure it could, I could never agree to a proposal, which was an imposition, in the most favourable light it could be viewed.

The manner in which I said this, convinced him it was to no purpose to press me farther. He made an obeisance, and reaching me a printed paper, signifying his name and place of abode, and that he sold all kinds of stationary wares at the lowest prices, took his leave with a smile, I suppose of contempt, at the narrowness of my way of thinking.

There may be something in this matter which I do not understand. This man may perhaps have a mind to impose upon  
me,



## THE PILGRIM. 69

me, like the hospital-builder. Perhaps he too may be a wit. I will consult my noble friend; he, I am assured, will not deceive me. It is an hard task to be always upon my guard; but among people who profess playing with truth, it is indispensable.

LETTER



## [LETTER V.]

**I**AM this moment returned from the strangest scene which I have yet met with in this strange land.

The vender of fame had scarce left us yesterday, when I received an invitation to go this morning to a lady, whose piety and virtues do honour to the most exalted rank.

As I was acquainted with her character, I willingly accepted her invitation, and accordingly was to wait upon her rather before the hour appointed.

She received me with dignity, sweetened by the most engaging condescension. Her whole appearance commanded respect; but the company in which she was, formed a contrast to herself, which struck me with the strongest surprize.

Figure to yourself a group of people of both sexes, whose dress spoke poverty,  
whose

whose looks, meanness, and dejection of spirit, seated in a chamber, which shone with magnificence and wealth.

When I entered, the lady was engaged in giving her flock some pious exhortation, of the importance of which the earnestness of her voice and manner shewed her persuasion, as her pursuing it, after I entered, proved that she thought it a duty superior to ceremony.

As soon as she had ended, she beckoned with her hand to her company to withdraw, and then placing me near her, “The motive of my sending for you, Sir, “(said she) will apologize for my taking “such a liberty. I understand that you “are a native of China, who have taken “this long and perilous voyage, merely “for the sake of information; and think “it would be a great pity, if that information should be confined to the unworthy objects of human knowledge. “I desired to see you, therefore, that you “may be informed in matters of more “importance; in that knowledge which “is

“ is conversant in things divine, and leads  
“ to happiness in the world which will  
“ never end.”

The thought of a woman's preaching on matters of religion, had something in it which appeared to me so absurd, that I was at a loss how to make her an answer, when the entrance of a third person brought me relief.

I have more than once observed to you the faith which I place in physiognomy. The first glance of this person's eye opened to me all his character. He was in the habit of a Bonzee. Under an appearance of the mildest humility, the most distinguished benevolence and piety, I could plainly read the works of avarice and ambition, blackened by the veil of hypocrisy, with which he strove to hide them from the world.

As soon as he entered, “ I have executed your Ladyship's commands, (said he,  
“ advancing to her, with an air of the profoundest respect, and not even seeming  
“ to

“ to observe that any other person was  
 “ present) and have agreed for ground,  
 “ upon which to build an house of prayer,  
 “ in the neighbourhood of those places of  
 “ profane recreation, where the tempter  
 “ has collected all his forces to attack un-  
 “ wary man. But he shall not triumph  
 “ longer unopposed. The standard of  
 “ righteousness shall be erected in the ve-  
 “ ry center of his power; nor do I fear  
 “ the event of the fight.”

He was interrupted at these words, by the intrusion of a man, who seemed by his appearance to have come on purpose to accept the challenge.

“ Madam, (said he, addressing himself  
 “ to the lady with a furious look) I come  
 “ to your Ladyship for redress in an affair  
 “ in which your name has been made use  
 “ of, to do me the greatest wrong.”

“ My name, good man! (she answered  
 “ in astonishment) I do not understand  
 “ you! Heaven forbid that my name  
 “ should ever be applied to an use so con-  
 Vol. II. E “ trary



“ trary to my intention, as to do wrong to  
“ any one. Pray what do you mean ?”

“ Madam, (he replied) I’ll tell you the  
“ whole story in a few words, and then you  
“ shall judge yourself if I have not a right  
“ to look for redress.

“ Your ladyship must know, that I am  
“ a mason by trade, but finding the times  
“ hard, and work slack, I set up a public  
“ house near the place, where I understand  
“ your ladyship is going to build a church,  
“ which soon answered very well, as I can  
“ sing a good song, and know how to  
“ please my customers in every respect. If  
“ the company was not always as good as  
“ they should be, that you know was not  
“ my affair. I sold my liquor, and that  
“ was all that concerned me.

“ Among those who used my house, was  
“ one of his reverence here’s right-hand  
“ men, a sweeper of the tabernacle, who  
“ often came slyly in an evening to refresh  
“ himself after the fatigue of canting, and  
“ praying all day.

“ This

“ This man, in an unlucky hour for  
 “ me, happening to hear me sing, said,  
 “ that if he had as good a voice as I,  
 “ he would make more of it than e’er an  
 “ Italian capon, saving your ladyship’s  
 “ favour, upon the stage; and on my  
 “ asking him how, said by singing hymns,  
 “ and spiritual songs, among the Doctor’s  
 “ people, who would give me the pre-  
 “ ference of their work in my trade; be-  
 “ side which I could not fail to pick up  
 “ some rich widow, or old maid, as his  
 “ reverence had done, who would make  
 “ my fortune at once, there being nothing  
 “ that makes a woman so loving as a lit-  
 “ tle religion.

“ Now my poor wife happening to be  
 “ lately dead, and thinking myself as  
 “ likely a man to please a woman’s fancy  
 “ as his reverence (no disparagement to  
 “ him) I e’en resolved to make the  
 “ trial, and accordingly went to the Ta-  
 “ bernacle, where my voice soon drew the  
 “ notice of all the congregation; and,  
 “ among the rest, of his reverence, who  
 “ frequently spoke to me with great civi-  
 “ lity;

“ lity ; and at length finding fault with  
“ my keeping such an house, I, like a  
“ fool, laid it down to get his good will,  
“ ever since which I have tagged after his  
“ tail up and down, to one place or an-  
“ other, singing hymns, and turning up  
“ the whites of my eyes like a dying  
“ calf ; and now, after all, when he had  
“ it in his power to make me amends by  
“ employing me to build this church, be-  
“ hold he has given the job to another,  
“ though I was one of the first to put in  
“ for it.”

It is impossible to describe the situation of the lady, while he was telling this story. She sunk back in her chair, and covering her face with one of her hands, lifted up the other which lay upon her lap, as in prayer. As for the Bonzee, he appeared perfectly unconcerned ; not a glance of his eye, or shade of his colour, betraying the least consciousness of the charge brought against him.

As soon as the man stopped, “ Well,  
“ my good friend, (said the Bonzee, with  
“ a look

“ a look and voice as placid as a saint at  
 “ prayer) in what am I to blame? Did  
 “ I ever desire you to join in worship with  
 “ us to the neglect of your business? On  
 “ the contrary, do not I always exhort to  
 “ industry? Or did I ever make you any  
 “ promise which I have broken, that you  
 “ should make such a demand upon her  
 “ ladyship?

“ Indeed, good man, (added the lady,  
 “ who by this time had recovered spirit to  
 “ speak) you are much in the wrong.  
 “ To give you the satisfaction you require,  
 “ instead of doing an act of justice,  
 “ would be to encourage the vilest hypo-  
 “ crisy. I never can do any such thing.”

“ I can’t say I much expected that you  
 “ would (returned he) while this black  
 “ gentleman here has you under his thumb.  
 “ But if I can’t make you do me justice,  
 “ I’ll make you sorry for having done me  
 “ wrong.

“ I’ll open my house again next week  
 “ and advertise that I’ll entertain my com-  
 E 3 “ pany



“pany with a new edition of the humours  
 “of the Tabernacle; I’ll sing an hymn  
 “for you and his reverence both to a new  
 “tune. The Countess’s Jig will make no  
 “bad second part to the Alderman’s  
 “Wriggle. It will be an excellent song  
 “for the workmen while they are build-  
 “ing a church.

“I will not promise to make him a-  
 “shamed, for he has been long past that;  
 “but I’ll make the fools who follow him  
 “ashamed to shew their faces, while he  
 “shall be hooted at by the very boys in  
 “the street. I’ll be worse to him than  
 “ever the Merry Andrew was.” Saying  
 which he walked away without further  
 ceremony.

It was some minutes before either the  
 Bonzee or his patroness could speak, after  
 such a menace. As for me, the scene was  
 too curious for me to wish it interrupted.

At length the Bonzee breaking silence,  
 “I am sorry, Madam, (said he, bowing  
 “respectfully), that such an untoward ac-  
 “cident

“ cident should have happened to disturb  
 “ your ladyship; but there are crosses in  
 “ the warfare of the spirit, as well as in  
 “ that of the world, which can be sur-  
 “ mounted only by patience and perse-  
 “ verance. I own this man has deceived  
 “ me, greatly deceived me. But offences  
 “ must come. Not that I will give him  
 “ up so easily. I will have another strug-  
 “ gle with the seducer before I lose all hope  
 “ of bringing him back to the fold.”

“ Do, dear Sir, (said she) and try to  
 “ prevent his making us ridiculous, as  
 “ he threatened. Ridicule is the severest  
 “ weapon with which truth can be at-  
 “ tacked. I had rather e’en give him  
 “ something to stop his mouth, than have  
 “ him publish that ridiculous song he spoke  
 “ of.”

“ Never fear! Madam, (replied the  
 “ Bonzee) I’ll take care of that! Your  
 “ ladyship shall hear no more of it.—But,  
 “ to proceed in the business in which he  
 “ interrupted me. I was going to lay the  
 “ estimates of the several tradesmen before

" your ladyship. Here they are. I have  
 " brought them down as low as will allow  
 " bread to the workmen. I know your  
 " ladyship would not stint the labourer in  
 " his hire, nor muzzle the ox that tread-  
 " eth out the corn. The poor have no  
 " way to live but by the earnings of their  
 " industry, which therefore must not be  
 " reduced too low."

" I am sensible, (answered the lady) of  
 " your indefatigable care in every good  
 " work ; but we will suspend the confi-  
 " deration of these matters for the present.  
 " This (turning toward me) is the il-  
 " lustrious foreigner with whom you ex-  
 " pressed a desire to confer on the myste-  
 " ries of the faith, in hopes of opening  
 " his eyes to the sacred words of eternal  
 " truth."

She had no sooner said this, than the  
 Bonzee saluted me in the politest manner,  
 and assured me, that he should think it the  
 greatest happiness, as well as honour of  
 his life, to be any way instrumental in  
 leading me into the paths of grace.

As

## THE PILGRIM. 81

As I have laid it down to myself for an unalterable rule, never to speak a syllable on the subject of religion, I was a good deal embarrassed how to answer him. Unwilling, however, that he should take my silence for an assent to his offer, I told him I apprehended he was mistaken in the motive of my leaving my own country; which was to inform myself in the manners of men, not their opinions; in respect to which, I thought every man had an incontestible right to follow his own judgment, without question or controul from any other, so long as they did not influence his conduct to the prejudice of any individual, or disturbance of the state.

“ How, Sir! (said he, with an air of surprize) if you were in your own country, and should hear a man profess an opinion contrary to that which you were convinced to be the truth, would you not strive to convert him?”

“ No, Sir! (I answered) I certainly should not, if that opinion was merely speculative, and did not lead to the consequences



“ sequences I mentioned before. I should  
“ think, on the contrary, that he had as  
“ good a right to his opinion, as I to  
“ mine; and therefore, that it would be  
“ unjust in me to disturb him in it.”

“ But the truth, Sir; (he interrupted  
“ eagerly) truth is a matter equally deli-  
“ cate and important; and it is a duty in-  
“ cumbent on every man to inculcate  
“ it.”

“ And may not his opinion be true, as  
“ well as mine? (I replied). At least, may  
“ he not think so; and then is it not  
“ true in respect to him? And as opini-  
“ ons are infinitely varied, would not this  
“ be opening the door to incessant dis-  
“ putes, and their inseparable conse-  
“ quence, animosities, and diffentions?  
“ In my country, every man thinks for  
“ himself, without being disturbed with  
“ the thoughts of any other; and I hope  
“ to enjoy the same liberty in this.”

“ I am sorry, Sir, (said the lady) that  
“ it should be disagreeable to you to speak  
“ on

“ on so interesting a subject. I wished to  
 “ have learned something from you of the  
 “ religion of your country, in hopes that  
 “ by setting our own in comparison with  
 “ it, you might have been led to embrace  
 “ the truth. This was my motive for de-  
 “ siring to see you.”

“ Madam, (interposed the Bonzee) I  
 “ dare to say the gentleman will permit me  
 “ to ask him a few questions, meerly as in  
 “ common conversation.”

To refuse such a request, would have  
 been the highest of unsocial rudeness. I  
 answered, therefore, that I was very ready  
 to give her ladyship any satisfaction in my  
 power; only begging leave to premise,  
 that my declining to enter into dispute,  
 must not be construed as a conviction of  
 my being in the wrong.

“ I think you have said, Sir, (said he)  
 “ that you will never contradict any man  
 “ in his opinion. I presume through that  
 “ you would not carry your complaisance

“ so far, as to join in worship with one  
“ whose opinions you disapproved ?”

I answered that worship, and opinion, were matters so totally distinct in their natures, that I could not conceive any reason why the one should have any influence upon the other. Worship, I said, was a duty which, though necessary to be paid, could yet have no merit, unless it was paid voluntarily; whereas opinion was neither necessary, nor voluntary, being derived from causes beyond our power to controul, and varying every moment of our lives, insomuch, that humanly speaking, it was impossible that any one, much less two men, could be of the same opinion for two minutes together; and for this reason, as the end and essence of worship was the same every where, and with all men, I would join in it with any man, without taking exception to the manner in which it was passed, which I imagined to be all that was matter of opinion.

I was in hope, that so full a declaration would have freed me from farther importunity

tunity on the subject; but the Bonzee was too sanguine, perhaps too much interested, as his patroness was present, to let me escape so easily.

“ Pray, Sir, (said he) after some pause, will you give me leave to ask, what are the principles of your religion, which can admit of such a way of thinking?”

I answered according to the principles of Confutsee, in which you and I were so happily instructed together; that our religion consists in gratitude to the Deity for all the blessings he has bestowed upon us, which I could shew no other way, but by doing all the good in my power to his creatures, the only act of man, which can possibly have merit in the sight of heaven.

“ Gracious God! (exclaimed the lady, her eyes sparkling with joy) what do I hear? This is the summit of our holy religion. The dear gentleman is certainly in the way of grace.”

“ Madam!



“ Madam! Madam! (returned the  
“ Bonzee, shaking his head with a look  
“ of reprehension) be not too precipitate  
“ in forming an opinion of matters which  
“ you may not have sufficiently weighed.  
“ Give me leave to ask the gentleman a  
“ question or two more. Pray, Sir, what  
“ is your opinion of the regeneration of  
“ grace? And which do you hold for;  
“ faith, or works? Your answer in these  
“ fundamental points will determine whe-  
“ ther your religion is of the Lord, or  
“ not.

I replied that it was impossible for me to give an answer concerning matters which I did not understand, having never heard a syllable of them before in my life.

“ I knew it, Madam, (said he exult-  
“ ingly) I knew that all his religion was  
“ but vanity! all his wisdom of this  
“ world, to which the mysteries of divine  
“ faith appear to be no better than fool-  
“ ishness.

“ And

“ And yet, Sir, (addressing himself to  
 “ me) without a proper faith in these  
 “ points it is impossible to be saved. Good  
 “ works without faith can only turn to  
 “ condemnation; for which reason, if  
 “ you will but lend attention to my words,  
 “ with a pious humility and desire of be-  
 “ ing rightly informed, I will explain  
 “ them to you in such a manner that you  
 “ will not have a doubt remaining.”

This, you know, was utterly beside my  
 design. I returned him thanks, therefore,  
 for his obliging offer, but begged leave to  
 decline giving him so much trouble, as  
 I was perfectly satisfied with my present  
 way of thinking, nor had the least desire  
 to be informed in any other. Saying which  
 I took my leave, I could see, far from  
 being so high in the good opinion of the  
 lady, as I had been a few moments be-  
 fore.

And now, O Chang-ti, what dost thou  
 think of this scene? of a woman's inter-  
 fering in matters of religion, and taking  
 upon her to direct opinion? Though I  
 can

can plainly see that she is the dupe of the Bonzee, who pretends only to execute her orders, while under that pretence he feeds his ambition; and by the basest of all speculations, that of defrauding the poor, appropriates her wealth to his own uses.

LETTER

## LETTER VI.

**Y**OU and I have often observed, with wonder, the power of habit over the human heart: how it changes the affections, fixes the flux of thought, and, in a manner, new moulds the whole system of nature. But have you ever known it to counteract nature? This is an instance of its force, to be found only in this country, where the course of nature seems to be inverted in all her works.

I have told you, that play is the first, the universal business of the upper ranks of people here, who have calculated every possible contingency with such exactness, as to reduce the determination of them to a science.

A Mandarin of the first order, who was deeply versed in this mysterious science, asserted, some time since, in a large company, as if accidentally, that a certain number of them would die within a certain time.

The



The oddity of the thought drew the attention of all present, who being warm with wine, and confident of their own health, not only disputed his opinion, but also provoked him to support it, by laying considerable sums upon the event.

Though this was directly what he had designed to bring them to, he affected to be offended at their keeping him to an opinion, which he said he had thrown out at random; till, in scorn of retracting any thing he had once advanced, he at length accepted of all their wagers.

Rash as such a proceeding appeared, it was founded on a long premeditated scheme. He knew the ages of the whole company. He had calculated the chances of their joint lives, and he hugged himself on the assurance of success.

But though the odds may be as a thousand to an unit, there is no certainty but that unit may succeed against them. This was the case here. The time ran out to the last day, and there yet wanted one of the

the number he had wagered on to die. What was to be done? He had never thought of any thing but winning his wagers, and therefore shot himself to win this, never once considering any further consequence, or who was to enjoy the fruit of his winning.

You will wonder, perhaps, at my calling an act, which can be performed but once, an effect of habit. It is not the act itself, but the way of thinking which led to it, that I refer to habit.

This man had been so long accustomed to make the winning of his wagers the first object of his care, and to refer every thing to chance, that he had persuaded himself the world was governed only by chance, and that no action was good or ill, but as it contributed to the winning of wagers. And from this system, for these people act upon system in every thing, proceed most of the self-murders which are so frequent among them; a conclusion proved on the evidence of fact, as few are com-

committed, except among those who make play the business of their lives.

Convinced of the pernicious consequence of this passion for play, the legislature have interdicted it with the strongest laws. But what can laws avail, when contradicted by the practice of those who make them? And is not example of greater force than any interdiction?

This is an inconsistency, and insult upon reason, not presumed upon so barefacedly by any other people under heaven.

LETTER

## LETTER VII.

**I**T is a question, which has often given me much thought, without my being able to solve to my own satisfaction, whether the manner in which the female sex is treated in our country or in this, is best adapted to their nature, and consequently more agreeable to reason.

It is not to be denied that the familiar intercourse, which reigns between the sexes here, (I allude not to sexual intercourse) exhilarates the mind, softens the manners, and gives a desire of pleasing, which makes life glide away much more pleasantly, than it would do otherwise.

But then, we must consider, on the other hand, whether these pleasures are equivalent to the evils, which too often arise from that intercourse. In order to make themselves agreeable in the eyes of the women, the men divert their attention from serious objects, to such as are merely amusing,  
from



from the duties, to the pleasures of life; and hence that total change in the manners of this people, of which moralists make such heavy complaints.

Nor is this effect confined to the men. The women themselves, always the slaves of caprice, have taken up the very occupations which they have lavished the men out of; insomuch, that the sexes seem to have changed their places.

As there are men who value themselves only upon the female accomplishments of dancing, singing, dress, cookery and needle-work; so are there women, whose whole talk is of philosophy, who write history, and spend their lives in the most fatiguing sports of the field.

I went lately, with my friend, to dine with a military mandarin, of high rank, the fame of whose exploits has reached to every quarter of the globe.

From the account I had heard of his actions, I had form'd to myself an idea,  
that

that his manners must be ferocious, and his very looks terrible to behold. But what was my surprize to find, on the contrary, a creature feeble in his make, and effeminate in his whole appearance !

A slight cloud, which had overcast the sky, sat him shivering. He spoke with horror of travelling into the next street in a chair, and had like to have fainted with a fright at the noise of a glass, which one of the servants happened to let fall behind him on the floor.

A cordial, which he called for to settle his nerves, after such a shock, gave him an opportunity of displaying his skill in domestic chymistry, as my friend's happening to tear her ruffle, introduced a dissertation upon needle-work, in which he bore a distinguished part.

But it was at dinner that he shone in all his glory. He pointed out the beauty and advantage of the order, in which the various dishes were disposed, and informed us, that it was of his own contriving, with as  
much

much self complacency, and pride of heart, as ever another general felt at the review of his army in battle-array. He told us the materials of which each dish was composed, their proportions to each other, and the time necessary for dressing them; and he tasted of each, to try if it was in perfection, before he would recommend it to his guests.

When I thought he had exhausted himself on these favourite subjects, I ventured to ask him a question concerning the war, in which he had made such a figure, not doubting but he would gladly embrace such an occasion of shewing a knowledge more worthy of him, though modesty might have prevented his introducing it himself.

But I soon found my mistake. He stared at me with disgusted surprize, as if the question had been absurd; and then, shrugging up his shoulders, said, war was a thing he never cared to think of, when he could help it; a profession, whose drudgery was a disgrace to human nature.

Though



Though I did not think it proper to make him any reply, I believe my looks sufficiently expressed my sentiments. He sunk under them, and never honoured me with a cast of his eye, much less a word, during the rest of the entertainment.

On my taking notice to my friend of the shameful inconsistency of such conduct with his situation, a conduct much more in the character of a woman, than of a man, she told me with a smile, that she was to dine the next day, where I might possibly meet a character which would make me amends for the disgrace done to my sex, at the expence of her's.

On our arrival at the house, we were informed that the mistress of it was in her study, but would come to us directly.

The mention of a lady's study struck me with a surprize, which my friend reading in my looks, resolved to improve. She desired the servant therefore to shew her up to his mistress, whither she beckoned to me to follow her.



The situation in which we found the lady, beggars description. The room was littered with books, lying in disorder on every chair and window. She was seated at a table, with an heap of written papers before her. Her face was all begrimed with snuff. She held a pen in one hand, while the other was employed in scratching her head. Her hair hung part over one side of her face, the rest on the other shoulder. Her coif lay beside her on the floor, among half-written, blotted pieces of paper, which had been thrown about, on disapprobation; and her ungirt gown exposed her bare bosom to the sight.

In a word; her whole appearance shew'd an utter absence of mind, an utter inattention to that personal delicacy, or even cleanliness, which, among all civilized people, is reckoned essential to the female character.

My friend was shocked at a sight which she thought unbecoming her sex. She therefore instantly begged pardon for her intrusion, and would have departed.

But

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But the lady, insensible of the impropriety of the scene, would not permit her. She arose from her chair, and without any appearance of concern at her own condition, obliged us both to sit down.

As soon as my friend had told her who I was, she turned to me with a smile, and said she had been engaged in a work which she believed would not meet my approbation.

“I have been drawing up a body of laws (said she) for a brave people, who have vindicated the honour of human nature, by shaking off a tyranny under which they have groaned for several ages, the principles of which are diametrically opposite to your government.”

I answered, that I hoped my having left my own country to seek information, would prove that I was not prejudiced in its favour; adding, that I should be glad to know how she had learned the principles of our government, as I apprehended

that they were but very imperfectly known in this part of the world.

“ All I know of them (she replied) is,  
“ that a famous writer of our country (fa-  
“ mous I should say in the opinion of  
“ others, for in mine he is infamous for  
“ the assertion) has asserted that your form  
“ of government is the most perfect in  
“ the world, because it is founded on the  
“ most absolute despotism.

“ Now I am, in all my writings, a  
“ professed enemy to despotism in the  
“ lowest degree, and consequently must  
“ oppose the principles of such a govern-  
“ ment. Liberty, pure and uncontroul-  
“ ed, is the prerogative of reason, the  
“ right of man ; and that I will vindicate  
“ against every invasion, how speciously so-  
“ ever it may be disguised. No kings, no  
“ emperors for me! I abhor the very  
“ name.”

I assured her that I was as fond of li-  
berty as she could possibly be, and that no  
government in the world was farther from



invading it, than our's, which was regulated by the strictest equality, the necessary subordination of civil society would admit.

"All words! (she returned) words to gild the poison which lies beneath. I acknowledge no subordination. It is an usurpation on the rights of nature. The first step of the ascent, whose summit is tyranny, Man, born free, knows no superior."

"But then (said I) may not liberty, if not restrained within due bounds, degenerate into licentiousness? Is any tyranny so terrible, so pernicious in its effects as anarchy? And, on your own principles, is not your labour in making laws thrown away, as the person entrusted with the execution of them, must be entrusted also with the power necessary for that purpose, or they will be merely nugatory, and no more than a dead letter? I argue not for a name. Whether emperor, king, or consul, the matter is the same."



She was prevented from answering by the entrance of her husband, who seemed as much shocked at her appearance as my friend had been. "Good God! my dear," (said he) "do you know the time of day?" "Dinner is ready, and you are not yet dressed."

"My friends will excuse my dress (she answered with a contemptuous smile); "I have other things to mind."

"But, my dear, (he replied, faltering with confusion) you should consider this gentleman is a stranger. Do, my love, pray set yourself a little to rights, and I will strive to entertain the company in the mean time."—Saying which, he led my friend into another room, whither I followed.

The time she took in dressing shewed she minded it but little. She joined us in a few minutes, and taking her place at the head of the table, asked her husband what he had ordered for dinner, adding, with a smile,

smile, that these were matters about which she never gave herself any concern.

Her behaviour at dinner was the very reverse of that of the military Mandarin with whom I had dined the day before. She scarce knew the name of any dish upon the table; she served improper sauces; she mixed different things on the same plate; and she scattered her sauff over every thing near her, in the earnestness of her discourse, which turned entirely upon politics, while she dethroned kings, and overturned empires, with as careless an air as she spilled the salt.

I know not which gave me greater disgust, the absurdity of the wife, or the insignificance of the husband, who minded nothing but to point out the beauty of what she said, and cram her praises down the throats of two persons who sat on each side of him, and whom, from their conversation, I soon discovered to be booksellers.

The only time he ventured to address himself to any one else, was to ask me if the ladies in my country often devoted themselves to studies of so abstruse a nature?

The question gave me pleasure, by giving me a proper opportunity of speaking my sense of such a preposterous abuse. I answered, therefore, that females, with us, confined their studies to the performance of domestic duties.

“How, Sir! (interposed the wife) do they not attend to the improvement of their reason? Have none of them ever distinguished themselves in the literary world? never wrote books of genius and learning?”

I replied, that writing in this country and in ours were quite different things. That I doubted whether there was a woman in China who could write an hundred words, much less a book.

Good

“ Good heaven ! (she exclaimed) what  
 “ a country ! Pray then, Sir, how do  
 “ they employ themselves ? ”

I answered, in managing their families,  
 in breeding and rearing children, and in  
 making clothes for them and their hus-  
 bands.

“ Gracious heaven ! in breeding chil-  
 “ dren (said she, bursting into a loud  
 “ laugh) ; glorious occupation for a ra-  
 “ tional creature ! ” Then recollecting her-  
 self, and knitting her brow into a frown  
 of severity ; “ What an usurpation ! (she  
 “ continued) ; what a tyranny over the  
 “ freedom of nature ! If the country was  
 “ but blessed with the use of letters, I’d  
 “ go thither myself, late as I am in life ;  
 “ I’d go thither, and teach them the dig-  
 “ nity of their nature. I’d deliver my  
 “ injured, oppressed sex, from so shameful  
 “ a slavery. Not know how to write an  
 “ hundred words ! I’d prove, that it is  
 “ the fault of man, who will not suffer  
 “ them to learn, not any incapacity in  
 “ their nature. I’d write an hundred vo-



"lumes to expose and overturn such ty-  
 "ranny."

Is it not better, O Chang-ti, to want  
 the conversation of woman, than be over-  
 whelmed with it in this manner? Wise  
 were our ancestors, to confine them to their  
 proper sphere.

LETTER

## L E T T E R VIII.

**Y**OU must remember, that the motive which principally induced our gracious sovereign to consent to my coming hither, was to inform myself particularly in the laws established for the interior government of it; of the excellence of which such of the natives as had come among us had spoken so largely, that if I should find their representations to be just, he might adopt such parts of them as he should judge proper for his own people; his wisdom not disdaining to stoop for instruction wherever to be found.

The principles of their laws I have not yet been able to investigate, sufficiently for me to form a just judgment of them; but if I may conclude from the practice of the people, which should be the proper comment on the laws of a country, they will prove to be far from answering his expectation.

The person, into whose hands I have told you that my friend has entrusted the management of her affairs, Mr. Williams, came to her some days ago, in the greatest agitation of spirit, to enquire whether his clerk had that morning brought her a considerable sum of money for which she had written.

On her answering in the negative, "I feared so! (exclaimed the poor man, sinking all pale and trembling into a chair), I feared so! and heaven grant that may be all I shall lose by him, that he may not have ruined me and my family for ever!"

"Can he have ruined me also? (interrupted my friend eagerly); Can he have ruined me also?"

"No! (answered he), I entrusted him only with my own affairs. Those of another person I did not think myself entitled to entrust to any one."

"Then

“Then dry your tears (she returned,  
 “her eyes sparkling with joy), you can-  
 “not be ruined while I am safe. But is  
 “there no way to recover what you have  
 “lost? to prevent further losses?”

This was more than his grateful heart  
 could bear. He caught her hand, and  
 kissing it, before she could prevent him,  
 “You are too good (he sobbed, as soon  
 “as a gulf of tears restored him power  
 “to speak), You are too good! But why  
 “do I waste time here? I must run in-  
 “stantly to the Bank. I should have  
 “gone before; but this misfortune has  
 “deprived me of my senses.”

“My coach is at the door (said she),  
 “that will carry you sooner than you can  
 “walk. Or shall I go with you? Will  
 “my presence be of any advantage?”

“It will ever be an advantage and an  
 “honour to me,” he returned, wiping his  
 eyes.

“Then



"Then let us go directly," she replied; and beckoning to me to go with her, we all went into the coach, which carried us as speedily as possible to the Bank. But all our speed was in vain. The spoiler had been there several hours before, and taken away all the money of his employer.

The next thing was to try if it was possible to recover the loss which we had been too late to prevent. For this purpose we went directly to a magistrate, to require his assistance for the apprehension of the felon.

Though I was at that time in a great measure unacquainted with the nature of the place we went to, it is impossible for me to express the horror with which the looks of every one around the magistrate struck me. Little skill in physiognomy indeed was requisite to read in them every vice and villainy that could deform the human heart.

When we were admitted, the magistrate was examining a youth, who was charged with

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with having committed a robbery on the highway the evening before; but on hearing the name of my friend, and her urgency for an immediate audience, he suspended his examination, and politely withdrew with us into another room, whither, as soon as he was informed of the cause of our coming, he directly summoned half a dozen of his people, to hear the description of the criminal; and then ordered them to hasten with the utmost expedition to the several sea-ports, from whence he might attempt to make his escape, which they set about with all the eagerness of blood-hounds, in hope of the promised reward.

When the rest had all departed, one of the gang, who hung behind, told the magistrate, with a significant smile, in which every base and malignant passion was expressed, that he believed he knew where the gentleman might be found nearer home.

“How!” said the magistrate, do you  
“know him? I thought he had been this  
“gentle-

“gentleman’s clerk, and lived constantly  
“in his house for several years.”

“Very like so! (answered the other,  
“with a grin impossible to be described);  
“very like he may. But is it not pos-  
“sible that I may know him for all that?  
“Why, your honour, he has kept a nag  
“at livery at the other end of the town  
“for these six months past, to take a ride  
“into the country every Sunday, where  
“he dines with half a score other genius’s  
“of the same stamp, at the expence of a  
“lord, and afterwards spends the evening  
“in the garden; as soon as I had notice  
“of which from the stable-keeper, I made  
“it my business to find out who he was,  
“and immediately fixed my eye upon him,  
“as one who must come to us at last.”

“Well! but Thomas, (answered the  
“magistrate) this still does not shew how  
“you know where to find him now.”

“Very like so! (returned the other)  
“but mayhap I have not told you all.  
“In the course of my enquiries I also  
“disco-



“ discovered a young woman, with whom  
 “ he keeps company ; that is, when her  
 “ own keeper, a great merchant in the  
 “ city, is out of the way ; and he is so  
 “ fond of her, that I am sure if he is  
 “ not actually along with her, she can tell  
 “ where he is ; and it will be no hard  
 “ matter for your honour to make her tell  
 “ all she knows.”

“ Why, Thomas, (said the magistrate)  
 “ what you say is very probable, and there-  
 “ fore I think you had better stop the  
 “ other people, while you go and look  
 “ for him at this place.”

“ Why should they be stopped? (returned  
 “ Thomas) mayhap he may not be where  
 “ I suspect, and then there will be so  
 “ much time lost. Beside, as the lady  
 “ has promised to pay the people, why  
 “ should I be their hindrance ? Let them  
 “ go on, and in the mean time I’ll take  
 “ care to lay the house all round, so that  
 “ he cannot escape if he is there ; and  
 “ then I’ll pop in just as it grows dark,  
 “ when his fear will be a little over, and  
 “ he



“ he shall have crept out of whatever hole.  
“ she has hid him in to eat a bit of vic-  
“ tuals. Let me alone to manage him.  
“ If he’s there, I’ll engage to ferret him  
“ out. I do not fear but the lady and  
“ gentleman will pay me for my trouble.”

It was impossible to object to such a scheme, especially as the magistrate vouched the fellow’s sagacity. My friend, therefore, not only confirmed her promise of the reward, but also encreased it, in case of extraordinary expedition, from a reflection, that the sooner the criminal should be apprehended, the less of the money he had taken would be embezzled.

This matter being settled, my friend could not forbear expressing her surprize at the vigilance and sagacity of the fellow, who had made this discovery of the criminal’s way of life.

“ As for that, madam, said the magis-  
“ trate, there is nothing in it out of the  
“ ordinary road. In a place like this,  
“ where such numbers live, no body  
“ knows

“ knows how, we, whose business it is to  
 “ keep things as right as we can, are  
 “ obliged to have a sharp look out.

“ For this purpose, there is not a live-  
 “ ry-stable, tavern, or bagnio, with some  
 “ one in which we have not a correspon-  
 “ dence; in consequence of which, we  
 “ know all those, whose expences exceed  
 “ their honest means, and are able to  
 “ watch their motions.

“ The scenes which came to our know-  
 “ ledge, through this information, are  
 “ often most painfully affecting; but  
 “ then that pain is many times well recom-  
 “ pensed by the reflection, that we fre-  
 “ quently save from ruin, those who could  
 “ not possibly have escaped it by any other  
 “ means. Many a man is this day a bless-  
 “ ing to his family, a profitable member  
 “ of the community, who must have  
 “ come to a shameful end, if I had not  
 “ stopped his career, in consequence of  
 “ this intelligence; not to mention that  
 “ without it no man could be sure of eat-  
 “ ing

“ing the fruits of his industry in safety.”

“Not that this vigilance is not sometimes perverted to bad purposes; as what is there that is not liable to abuse? There is, at this very moment, a prisoner in the next room, whose case makes my heart bleed, though I fear it will not be in my power to prevent his falling a victim to the basest villainy; a misery which people in my station often suffer.”

I need not tell you how I was affected by this account! nor was pity the only passion I felt. My curiosity was raised to the highest degree, to know why a magistrate could not save a person, whom he believed to be innocent of the crime alledged against him.

Though the curiosity of my friend was interested as deeply as mine, she could not quit the gentleman with whom we came; but he, reading both our sentiments in  
“our

our looks, relieved us from our embarrassment.

“ Madam, (said he) I must beg leave  
 “ to quit you here, as I have some other  
 “ places to go to on on this unfortunate  
 “ occasion, where it would not be proper  
 “ for you to be seen. The moment I hear  
 “ any thing, I will let you know. In the  
 “ mean time, if you have any curiosity  
 “ to be more particularly informed of the  
 “ case of the unhappy prisoner, of whom  
 “ this gentleman has given so affecting an  
 “ account, I am confident he will take a  
 “ pleasure in your being present to hear  
 “ the examination.”

This was a proposal too pleasing to be refused, especially as the magistrate enforced it in the politest manner.

She assented accordingly, and her friend departing, the magistrate ordered the door to be thrown open, and the prisoner, with his accusers brought in, that we might not be incommoded by the croud in the other room.

Never



the things and the things which he made  
the take out of my shoes, with which

Never was anguish of soul more strongly painted, than in the face of this unhappy youth: that anguish though was unstained by any tint of conscious guilt. He looked his accuser in the face, with the modest confidence of innocence.

As soon as he was placed to the bar, the magistrate called to the accuser, and with a stern look, bade him repeat his charge, as his attention had been interrupted by other business.

“ Please your worship, (said the accuser) what I have to say, is this: Having walked out to Hampstead yesterday, on some business, as I was returning home, a little before dark, I was stopped at the foot of the hill, by the prisoner at the bar, who clapping a pistol to my ear, robbed me of two shillings and nine-pence; that is to say, one half crown piece, and three pennyworth of halfpence, and a pair of silver shoe-kuckles,

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“ shoe-buckles, that cost me eighteen  
“ shillings and six-pence, which he made  
“ me take out of my shoes, with which  
“ he rode off toward town; where, on  
“ coming through Gray’s-Inn-lane, a lit-  
“ tle after, I found him wrangling with  
“ the hostler at the door of an inn; and  
“ instantly charging him with the robbe-  
“ ry, and taking him up, I found this  
“ case of pistols, and my own money, in  
“ his pocket. What he had done with  
“ my buckles I do not know, but I sup-  
“ pose he threw them away when he saw  
“ me.”

“ Are you certain it was the prisoner at  
“ the bar who robbed you? (said the ma-  
“ gistrate). You say it was just dark.  
“ Perhaps you may be mistaken, and the  
“ life of a man is a serious matter. Look  
“ at him again! Look at him full in the  
“ face.”

“ Please your worship, (answered the  
“ accuser) there is no occasion for my  
“ looking at him now. I know him  
“ well

"well enough, and cannot be mistaken."  
 "ken."

"You know him, you say! Pray how  
 "have you known him, and in what character?"

"As to his character, (replied the  
 "other) I know nothing of it. I believe I may have known himself for  
 "this half year, or better, off and  
 "on."

"And when did you see him last, demanded the magistrate, before this affair of your being robbed?"

"Why yesterday morning," returned the fellow.

"Yesterday morning! (said the magistrate) but do not you think he must  
 "have known you, as well as you knew  
 "him? And is it probable he would rob  
 "a man, who he was sensible knew  
 "him?"

"I can

" I can say nothing to that, (replied the  
 " other); mayhap he did not know me,  
 " as I held my head down, and my hat  
 " was flapped. All I know is, that he  
 " robbed me on the highway; and that  
 " when I took him, he had my money in  
 " his pocket, as this honest man can prove,  
 " to whom I gave that and the pistols to  
 " keep."

" And can you swear so positively to  
 " the money too?" demanded the ma-  
 gistrate.

" That I can, please your worship (an-  
 " swered he), and bring others to swear  
 " it also. This gentleman here, who  
 " keeps a public house in Hampstead, will  
 " swear that I offered him that very half-  
 " crown to change not an hour before I  
 " was robbed, in order to pay for a glass  
 " of brandy and water, but he doubted  
 " whether it was good, because of a flaw  
 " in it, upon which I gave him a sixpenny  
 " piece to change, and received the three-  
 " penny-worth of halfpence, which I was  
 " robbed of along with the half-crown,



“ and afterwards found in the prisoner’s  
 “ pocket. This gentleman also, who  
 “ keeps the turnpike, can prove, I told  
 “ him just after, that I had been robbed,  
 “ and of how much, and shewed him my  
 “ shoes without any buckles in them, and  
 “ also described the man who robbed me.  
 “ That is all I have to say, please your  
 “ worship.”

Every circumstance of this charge being confirmed by the people he had referred to, the magistrate turned to the prisoner, and asked him what he could say in his own defence, bidding him recollect himself, and speak with caution, as his life was at stake.

“ Sir, (answered the prisoner) the sum  
 “ of what I have to say is, that I am as  
 “ innocent of this crime as of having  
 “ robbed you at the same moment;  
 “ though, whether I can make my innocence appear, is more than I can say,  
 “ so deep was the pit dug into which I am  
 “ fallen.

“ The

“ The story, Sir, is this. I am a gen-  
 “ tleman’s servant. I once had better  
 “ hopes, but they are lost. I have never  
 “ been in any more than one place, where  
 “ I lived three years, and had the good  
 “ opinion of my master, till I lost it on  
 “ account of my present accuser, whom I  
 “ became acquainted with about the time  
 “ he says. He is a servant also, and was  
 “ then in great distress, having been long  
 “ out of place.

“ On my losing my place I took a lodg-  
 “ ing, where he slept with me, and lived  
 “ as I did, being quite destitute himself,  
 “ till I had spent what little money I had,  
 “ which was not much, as I had maintained  
 “ my mother out of my wages from the  
 “ first day of my going to service ; indeed  
 “ it was for that alone I turned servant ;  
 “ when he would have had me to sell or  
 “ pawn my clothes ; but I resolved to  
 “ bear any thing rather than do that, as  
 “ it would put it out of my power to get  
 “ into a good place again, which gave  
 “ him such offence, that I saw no more  
 “ of him for a fortnight past till yesterday  
 G 2 morning,

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“ morning, when he came to me with an  
 “ appearance of great joy, and told me  
 “ he had heard of a place, which he was  
 “ sure would suit me exactly, naming a  
 “ gentleman who lived about ten miles  
 “ out of town.

“ As I could not conceive any reason  
 “ he could have to deceive me, I received  
 “ the news with the greatest joy ; the dif-  
 “ ficulty was, how I should get there, as  
 “ I could not walk so far, having hurt  
 “ my leg, and had not money enough in  
 “ the world to pay the hire of an horse ;  
 “ whereupon he proposed that I should  
 “ take an horse from any stable I knew,  
 “ and that he would meet me at the foot  
 “ of Hampstead hill, on my return, and  
 “ take him back, as if he thought I had  
 “ paid for him, by which means I might  
 “ put it off till it suited me.

“ Though I always detested such shift-  
 “ ing tricks, the fear of missing a place,  
 “ of which I was in such necessity, forced  
 “ me to agree to his proposal ; and ac-  
 “ cordingly he met me again in half an  
 “ hour

“ hour after, and desired I would deliver  
 “ a letter for him, and a pair of pisto's,  
 “ to a person whom I should find at a  
 “ public house on the road, charging me,  
 “ if I should not meet the man to whom  
 “ the letter was directed, to bring the  
 “ pistols back with me.

• “ Accordingly, dividing with him the  
 “ last shilling I had in the world, I went  
 “ to a stable in Gray's-inn-lane, where I  
 “ was known, and took an horse; but  
 “ behold, when I came to the gent'eman's  
 “ house, I found I had lost my labour,  
 “ as he did not want a servant; at which  
 “ I returned, vexed enough at the disap-  
 “ pointment, and meeting this man at the  
 “ place he had agreed, would have given  
 “ him the horse to take home, but he ex-  
 “ cused himself, saying, he was obliged  
 “ to go another way on business, but that  
 “ he would lend me money to pay for  
 “ him; and accordingly gave me that  
 “ cracked half-crown, and three-penny-  
 “ worth of halfpence, which he afterwards  
 “ found in my pocket, together with the  
 “ pistols which I had brought back, the



“ people of the house, where I was to  
 “ have left them, knowing nothing of the  
 “ person they were directed for. As to  
 “ his shoe-buckles, I can only say, that I  
 “ never saw any such with him, nor the  
 “ sixth part of the value of them, since I  
 “ knew him.

“ This, Sir, is my story, by which  
 “ you will see he has laid a snare for my  
 “ life, in hope of getting the reward.  
 “ But I trust in God’s justice, and my  
 “ own innocence, that he will be disap-  
 “ pointed. If not, God’s will be done.  
 “ My greatest concern is for my poor  
 “ mother, who will be destitute now in-  
 “ deed.”

The force of truth is irresistible. The  
 tear in every eye present bore testimony of  
 his innocence ; while all turned away from  
 his accuser with abhorrence.

For my part I expected that the ma-  
 gistrate would have dismissed him directly,  
 and inflicted some exemplary punishment  
 on

on his accuser ; but I knew not the laws of this country.

As soon as the magistrate had shaken off the softness with which this story had affected him, accustomed as he was to moving scenes, “ Pray, young man, (said he to the prisoner) can you bring any proof of what you have said ?”

“ Not as to the transactions of yesterday, (answered the prisoner), they were entirely between ourselves. He knew his business too well to let any body be privy to them. But that I lost my place on his account, and have supported him ever since, I can bring witnesses enough to prove.”

“ Well ! and what then ? (interrupted the accuser) ; What is that to the purpose ? Did that give you a right to rob me on the king’s highway ?”

“ Be silent, friend ! (interposed the magistrate) ; when I shall have done with him,

“ him, I have something more to say to  
“ you also.”

Then turning to the prisoner, “ You  
“ say you lived three years in your last  
“ place. For what offence were you  
“ turned away ?”

“ For admitting this man to sleep with  
“ me, Sir, (answered the prisoner) con-  
“ trary to the express orders of my master,  
“ never to let a stranger sleep in the  
“ house.”

“ A very just cause (returned the ma-  
“ gistrate); it were to be wished that  
“ every master of a family was equally  
“ strict. Do you think your master would  
“ give you a good character in other re-  
“ spects ?”

“ I am certain he would (answered the  
“ prisoner), but to my misfortune he is  
“ not in the kingdom.”

“ How

“ How have you lived ? (continued the  
“ magistrate) and what company have you  
“ kept since you left him ?”

“ I took a little room in the same house  
“ with my mother (replied the prisoner)  
“ with whom I always eat, as did this  
“ man mostly, though much against her  
“ inclination, as she never had been used  
“ to such company, and did not like him  
“ in particular. I never went out, but  
“ in the forenoon, to enquire at the Re-  
“ gister-Office, and among my acquaint-  
“ ances, for a place.”

“ You never went out but in the fore-  
“ noon ! (added the magistrate). Where,  
“ and how did you spend your evenings ?”

“ Always at home with my mother and  
“ the family of the house, returned the  
“ prisoner. I never spent one evening out.  
“ I could not afford it. I was always in  
“ bed by ten o’clock. This man indeed  
“ often stayed out till it was very late,  
“ and sometimes all night, which the man  
“ of the house was very uneasy at.”



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“ How did you first come acquainted  
 “ with him? (continued the magistrate)  
 “ and why did you let him live with you  
 “ against the good liking of your friends?”

“ The first time I ever saw him in my  
 “ life, Sir, (answered the prisoner) he ap-  
 “ plied to me for assistance, being, as he  
 “ said, long out of place, and in great  
 “ necessity. Now, Sir, as that is a mis-  
 “ fortune which all servants are subject to,  
 “ and might possibly be my own case one  
 “ day, I did by him as I would wish to  
 “ be done by myself. I cannot say I ever  
 “ liked his conversation. But I do not  
 “ know how it was! Though I wished to  
 “ be rid of him, I never could shake him  
 “ off while I had a shilling left. He  
 “ would not take a civil hint, and I could  
 “ not find in my heart to speak to him  
 “ directly, as I was afraid he had no where  
 “ else to go to.”

“ An unhappy tenderness for you! I  
 “ greatly fear,” replied the magistrate.  
 Then turning to the accuser, “ And pray,  
 “ my good friend, (he continued) what  
 “ can

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“ can you say to this ? Is it true that you  
“ have lived upon this young man, as he  
“ says ? ”

“ Perhaps it may, (answered he, with  
“ an audacity which struck every one who  
“ heard him with indignation and horror)  
“ but what is that to the purpose ? I have  
“ proof enough that he robbed me, and  
“ that is all I came here for. ”

“ Take care ! ” (replied the magistrate)  
“ Take care that is all you come here for.  
“ I may have something else to speak to  
“ you about, before we part, that you  
“ little think of. You are a servant also,  
“ I understand. Pray how long have you  
“ been out of place ? and with whom d.d  
“ you live last ? ”

“ I don’t know what that is to the pur-  
“ pose ! (returned the other) I have lived  
“ in several places. ”

“ Take care, I advise you ! (replied the  
“ magistrate, with a severe look and ac-  
“ cent) and answer me directly, or I shall

“ other measures with you. With whom  
“ did you live last regularly hired as a ser-  
“ vant?”

“ Why the last place I was absolutely  
“ hired to, if I must tell that, (said he)  
“ was with Miss Blossom.”

“ Miss Blossom! Miss Blossom! (re-  
“ peated the magistrate), I think I should  
“ know that name. Pray who was she?”

“ Perhaps you might have known her,  
“ (answered the fellow) she was a lady of  
“ the town.”

“ A good kind of mistress (replied the  
“ magistrate) and well suited with a ser-  
“ vant, I make no doubt. This you say  
“ was your last place! Pray how long  
“ may it be since you left that good lady’s  
“ service?”

! “ How long! (returned the other) be-  
“ like it may be a couple of years, more  
“ or less, for I can’t justly say. I keep  
“ no account of such things.”

“ A couple

"A couple of years!" (said the magistrate) "I'll help your memory. It must be four years at least, as that lady has been transported so long. And pray how have you lived since?"

"How have I lived! (answered he) why by eating and drinking, I suppose. How else should I live?"

"Once more, I desire you to take care; (said the magistrate) for such another answer, I'll directly send you to a place where you shall learn better manners. I desire to know how you have gotten your living for these four years, or more, that you have been out of place?"

"Why sometimes one way, sometimes another, (he answered, surlily, no way pleased at being so closely examined) as well as I could. I am sure you never heard any thing dishonest of me, that should make you ask so many questions."

"What



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“ What I have heard I shall not tell  
 “ you at present, (replied the magistrate)  
 “ but this I shall tell you, that I will not  
 “ let you loose upon the world, to live  
 “ one way or another, as you call it, till  
 “ you give a better account what these  
 “ ways are, and sufficient security for your  
 “ good behaviour.”

Then turning to his clerk, “ As the robbery is sworn directly against this poor  
 “ young man, (he continued) he must  
 “ necessarily be committed to prison to be  
 “ tried for it. And as for this worthy  
 “ gentleman, let him be sent to bridewell,  
 “ till he finds sufficient bail to prosecute,  
 “ and for his good behaviour also. I  
 “ must have some farther discourse with  
 “ him.”

The manner in which the two men received their sentences, shewed their characters in the strongest light. While the accuser poured out a volley of blasphemous execrations, the accused raising his hands and eyes to heaven, welcomed its  
 will

will with a sigh, that seemed to have burst his heart.

My surprize was not greater than my indignation, at this conduct of the magistrate. I was just going to ask him how he could possibly be guilty of such injustice, as to commit to prison, a man of whose innocence he must be convinced, when my friend prevented me.

As soon as she had wiped away a tear, which stood some time glistening in her eye, she asked the magistrate's permission to speak to the prisoner, in his presence, to which he readily assented, ordering every one else, except me, out of the room.

“ The account which you have given  
 “ of yourself, (said she, addressing the  
 “ poor trembling wretch, with a look and  
 “ accent of the most encouraging compassion) has such an appearance of truth,  
 “ that I am myself persuaded of your innocence. Do not therefore be dispirited.  
 “ You shall not want friends to support you against oppression, or even to  
 “ implore

“ implore the royal mercy, should the  
 “ schemes of your accuser be too deep for  
 “ detection, provided no stronger proof  
 “ of guilt appears against you than at  
 “ present.

“ In the mean time I will ease your  
 “ heart of another care. Let me know  
 “ where to find your poor mother, and I  
 “ will supply her with that support which  
 “ your misfortune has deprived her of.”

I must not attempt to describe the state  
 of the young man while my friend spake  
 these words. His gratitude was too big  
 for utterance. He dropped upon his  
 knees, and catching her hand, which  
 she had held out to raise him, sobbed  
 aloud, while he washed it with his tears.

Recovering himself at length, “ O, Ma-  
 “ dam, (said he) you have eased me of  
 “ all care! What can possibly happen to  
 “ myself I regard not, provided my poor  
 “ mother is saved from want. Indeed,  
 “ Madam, she was not born in fear of  
 “ any want. She has had better hopes;  
 “ nor

“ nor will you find her unworthy of your  
 “ goodness. As for myself, let my fate  
 “ be what it shall please heaven, I am in-  
 “ nocent; truly innocent of this, and  
 “ every crime of the kind. I am indeed,  
 “ Madam.”

My friend then pulling out her purse,  
 gave him a few pieces of gold, as did I  
 secretly, and turning to the magistrate,  
 besought for him as much favour as his  
 case would admit; who answered, that her  
 interposition in that particular was not ne-  
 cessary, as his clerk knew, by the manner  
 in which he had ordered him to be com-  
 mitted to prison, that he designed he should  
 be treated with lenity; adding, that he  
 would omit no possible means to detect,  
 and defeat the base design against his life.

The poor young man having by this  
 time written a direction to his mother, and  
 given it to my friend, withdrew more like  
 one who was going to a feast than to a  
 prison, so happy had her promise of taking  
 his mother under her protection made  
 him.

“ How



" How happy are they (said the ma-  
 " gistrate, as the prisoner left the room)  
 " who are blessed with the power of  
 " making happy ! This is the use which  
 " makes wealth really a blessing."

" And may I not add, (said my friend)  
 " that he is happy, who has it in his  
 " power to protect innocence, and frus-  
 " trate the machinations of the wicked ?"

" O ! Madam, (he answered, with an  
 " obeisance for the compliment) how very  
 " seldom does that happiness occur, to  
 " compensate for the misery of seeing vil-  
 " lains, without being able to defeat it,  
 " as this day, of being obliged to effec-  
 " tuate the very villainy we see, when  
 " it is schemed too artfully for us to de-  
 " feat, as is too often our unhappy  
 " case !

" I have been in this painful office for  
 " many years. Success in a subordinate  
 " department of it flattered me with hope  
 " of succeeding still more in an higher  
 " station ; but alas ! the shield entrusted  
 " to

“ to me is not sufficiently large to cover  
 “ innocence from all the attacks made  
 “ against it! Perhaps it would not be safe  
 “ to make it larger, for fear of its being  
 “ applied to improper use ; the tempta-  
 “ tion of power is so very dangerous.”

The magistrate having then promised my friend to give her immediate notice, should he receive any information of the clerk, whose villainy had been the occasion of our waiting upon him, as also of this unfortunate young man, we took our leaves, equally surprised at the humanity of man to devise, and the impotence of laws to defeat injustice.

\* \* \* \* \*

As there was yet some time to dinner (observe that I accommodate my words to the manners of the people among whom I am) my friend resolved to go directly to the mother of the unhappy prisoner, to perform her promise to him ; and if possible outfly the news of his misfortune.

On

On our arrival at the house, the moment the servant mentioned the name of the person whom we wanted, a child, who had opened the door, instead of making him any answer, exclaimed, in a transport of joy, " Good news ! good news ! here " is a lady in her own coach enquiring " for Mr. William's mother. She must " bring some good news of him." Saying which she ran up stairs to the poor woman, without waiting to enquire farther about us.

But the woman of the house soon explained this to us. " O, Madam, (said she, coming to the door on hearing the " exclamation of her daughter), " Do " you know any thing of Mr. William ? " His mother, poor lady, is almost distracted, as indeed we all are, for fear " some evil should have happened to him, " for he never stayed out a night before."

Before my friend had time to make her any answer, the mother herself came down, with a vivacity little suited to her appearance, and running to the coach door, " O, " Madam !

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“ Madam! dear Madam! (said she) do  
“ you know any thing of my child?  
“ Where is he? What is become of him?  
“ Shall I ever see him more?”

The appearance of this poor woman bespoke the tenderest regard. Her looks, her manner, every thing about her, shewed that she had seen a better state.

“ My dear Madam! (answered my  
“ friend, descending from her coach, and  
“ taking the poor trembling creature by  
“ the hand), your son is well; and I do  
“ not doubt but you will soon see him so.  
“ I will go in with you, if you please,  
“ and tell you more.”

The agitation of mind in which they all were, permitted them not to attend to me; but the scene was too interesting for me to lose sight of it for a mere compliment, and so I followed my friend.

We were shewn into a little chamber, the neatness of every thing in which took off our attention from its poverty. As  
soon



soon as we were seated, my friend still holding the poor gentlewoman's hand in one of her's, "Accept (said she, putting her purse into it with the other), accept of this as from your son. It was upon his account I came here; but now I have had the pleasure of seeing you, I give it as much upon your own."

"O, Madam! Madam! (exclaimed the gentlewoman, bursting into tears, as she fell upon her knees before her), but where is he? Is my poor child safe? Is he well? Forgive me, dearest Madam, forgive me! but till I know that, my heart is unable to express its gratitude for your goodness. He is my all; my only comfort in this life! Except my God, my only hope!"

"I have told you that he is well, (answered my friend, raising her from the ground, and pressing her to her breast with a tender embrace), I have told you that he is well; and I hope you will soon see him so. Compose yourself a little, and I will tell you all."

Respect obliged the poor gentlewoman to struggle with her impatience. She bowed her head, and fixing her eyes upon my friend, with a look more expressive than any words, attended while she unfolded to her the misfortune of her son; and at the same time assured her of her own protection in the most friendly manner.

The moment she had ended, the poor woman fell again upon her knees, and raising her hands and eyes to heaven, offered up the prayer of her soul in silence.

Such scenes as these are not to be described. There was not a dry eye in the company.

As soon as a flood of tears had restored to the poor woman the power of utterance, she expressed her gratitude to her generous benefactress in the warmest terms; and promised, as far as nature could, to pay respect to her advice of governing her sorrow.

The

The master of the house coming in just as we were going to depart, and being informed of what had happened, enquired, after some pause, what bundle that was which he had met a fellow carrying out in the morning?

The poor woman answered, that it was her son's best suit of clothes, which he had sent for, she now supposed, to raise a little money in his distress, though he had said it was to dress himself, in order to wait upon a lady who wanted a servant.

He then asked if her son had written for them; and upon her answering that he did not, but that the man had described the clothes so well, and told her so exactly where they lay, she had not doubted but her son had sent him.

“ And well he might tell you where  
 “ they lay (returned the man) though  
 “ your son did not send him, if, as I  
 “ strongly suspect, he was sent by that  
 “ villain, along with whom I am positive  
 “ that I have seen him more than once.  
 “ But

“ But this very thing may possibly lead us  
 “ to some discovery of the greatest service.  
 “ I’ll go directly to your son, and find  
 “ whether he sent for the clothes; and if  
 “ he did not, I’ll then go on to the ma-  
 “ gistrate, and put his people upon the  
 “ scent of the fellow. I know some of  
 “ his haunts, and doubt not but he may  
 “ be a means of detecting the whole vil-  
 “ lains.”

“ Heaven grant it! (ejaculated the mo-  
 “ ther, accompanied by every voice in the  
 “ room), and, good Sir, continued she,  
 “ give this, (reaching out the purse which  
 “ she had just before received from my  
 “ friend) give this to my poor child, and  
 “ assure him of my incessant prayers. He  
 “ may, he must, alas! want money; and  
 “ I neither want, nor can enjoy any thing,  
 “ while he is in distress. Tell him it was  
 “ the beneficence of this dear good lady,  
 “ who will forgive my parting with it for  
 “ such a purpose. I would go to him  
 “ myself, but I know the sight of me  
 “ would only heap more affliction on his  
 “ feeling, his affectionate heart.”



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“ Keep that, Madam ! (interposed my friend, stopping her hand), keep that for your own use. Your son’s wants have been already supplied ; nor shall he want any thing in his distress.”

Then desiring the man of the house to let her know the event of his enquiries, she returned home, happy in the conscious approbation of her own mind, where she found her friend and his family, whom she had insisted on his bringing to dine with her, in order to keep up their spirits under so severe a loss, and concert means of repairing it.

\* \* \* \* \*

A virtuous mind soon finds consolation in itself. The man, who in the morning appeared to be bereft of thought, and ready to sink under his misfortune, was now chearful and serene, and administered to his wife that comfort which he had before so greatly wanted himself.

On

On my friend's expressing surprise at his placing so much confidence in a person for whom he had no surety, he answered, that he thought he had had the firmest security for his honesty and attachment, which it was possible for man to have, inasmuch as he had laid him under every obligation which could bind the human heart to gratitude, having taken him into his house a friendless orphan, and reared him from infancy with the same care as if he had been his own child.

“ Nor (he continued) have I ever had  
 “ reason to think my regard for him ill-  
 “ placed before this day. It is true, I  
 “ have for some time past perceived an  
 “ alteration in his looks; an absence, a  
 “ thoughtfulness hang upon his mind.  
 “ But I attributed it to his reflecting on  
 “ the uncertainty of his situation, and was  
 “ determined at the end of the year, when  
 “ I should have made up my books, to  
 “ admit him into partnership with myself;  
 “ so far was I from suspecting any thing  
 “ of the courses into which he had fallen,

“ much less his being capable of such ingratitude, such dishonesty to me.”

We were prevented from making any reflections on such baseness, by an account from the magistrate, that the wretch who had been the guilty subject of them was apprehended.

The emotion into which this turned us all may be easily conceived. My friend being sick of such scenes, and not thinking her presence necessary, remained at home with the wife and daughter of the sufferer, while I went with him to see the end of an affair which had so highly interested my curiosity.

He had been taken in the apartment of the Courtesan, with whom the thief-catcher said he associated, disguised in female apparel, and just preparing to set off for the country of the Hollanders, in company with her. But to the surprise of his master, there had been found in his custody, only one hundred pieces of gold, though the sum which he had stolen, exceeded

ceeded five thousand. We found him standing with his eyes fixed upon the ground in determined silence, which neither the advice, nor the threats of the magistrate, could prevail upon him to break.

On hearing the voice of his injured master, he started, and changed colour; but recovering himself instantly, he continued the same obstinate silence as before.

Provoked by such contumacy, the magistrate ordered him to be carried directly to Newgate, and there loaded with chains, as heavy as he could live under, in the deepest dungeon, saying, that if he could not make him speak, he would at least make him cry, if his body was not as hardened as his soul.

The horror with which this menace struck him, shook his resolution. "What  
 " would you have me say? (said he, still  
 " keeping his eyes fixed upon the ground)  
 " and why should you torture me for si-  
 " lence, when my speaking can avail no-  
 " thing? You have sufficient proof of  
 H 3 " my



“ my being guilty! and what would you  
 “ more? and that I know is neither in  
 “ your power, nor yet in your inclination  
 “ to save me from.”

His master then asking him what he had done with the rest of the money, and urging him to restore it, by every argument and intreaty which could be thought to have influence on the human heart, “ It  
 “ is in vain for this gentleman, (said the  
 “ wretch, addressing himself to the magistrate) to harrafs me with his questions. To him I will never speak a  
 “ word. As to the money, about which  
 “ he enquires, it is beyond his reach. I  
 “ have earned it by this disgrace, by  
 “ imprisonment which I must suffer, and  
 “ by the banishment from my native  
 “ country; and I shall want it to support  
 “ me in that, to which I shall be banished;  
 “ ed; nor shall any human means force  
 “ me to give it up.”

Before I could desire an explanation of this insult to justice, this defiance of all law,

law, a new discovery lowered the miscreant's courage.

On looking over the several things which had been found in his possession, his master saw a ring of value, which had been given to him by my friend. "Gracious heaven! (he exclaimed, taking it in his hand) How could he come by this? He must have broke open"——

"Stop! (interrupted the magistrate, who by good fortune happened to be the only one who heard him, the attention of the rest being taken up by the entrance of another criminal) do not speak a word." — Then retiring with him for a few minutes into another room, the magistrate came out and ordered the prisoner to be led in to his master, whether I would have followed him; but the magistrate prevented me, saying, in a low voice, that my presence was not proper; but my friend would inform me, at another time, of what would give me pleasure.

The prisoner and his master had not been long together, when the latter came out, in violent emotion, and whispering something to the magistrate, instantly went out, beckoning to me to follow him.

“ Congratulate me, (said he, squeezing my hand in rapture, as we drove to a particular place, which he had named to the coachman) congratulate me on my happy fortune. By the most lucky accident, the worthy magistrate has put me in the way of recovering all my loss.”

He had not time to say more, when the carriage stopping at the door of an house, we instantly entered, and ascended to an upper chamber, without asking any questions : he took a key out of his pocket, and opening a small coffer, found in it the whole sum, which his clerk had that morning received in his name at the bank, in the very notes it had been paid in ; and putting the letter case, in which they were, into his pocket, we went down again, without

without saying a word to any of the family.

His transport was so great, that he was not able to clear up this mystery to me as we drove back to the magistrate's. All he could say was, to express his gratitude to him, and return thanks to heaven.

On our return to the magistrate's, the merchant just making him a bow, went into the room, where the prisoner had remained alone ever since his departure; and coming out again in a few minutes, told the magistrate with a joyful smile, that all was right; upon which, the magistrate ordering the prisoner to be brought back, told him he was glad he made it not improper for him to treat him with that lenity, which it was his inclination to shew to all men in distress, and therefore countermanding the severity of his former orders, sent him to another prison.

As the business of the day appeared to be over, the magistrate accepted of our invitation to go with us to my friend's,



who, we were certain, would be truly glad to see him.

How sincerely our arrival was welcomed need not be said. Happiness was now restored to a worthy family, who, but a few hours before, thought themselves despoiled of the greater part of the earnings of a life of industry; while every eye was turned with gratitude to the worthy magistrate, whose vigilance and sagacity had been chiefly instrumental in making them happy.

The curiosity of my friend anticipated mine, by asking the magistrate how the criminal had been prevailed upon to restore the spoil, after so obstinate a refusal as he had given, of which she had received information by a servant, whom she had sent for that purpose.

“ Permit me, Madam, (answered Mr. Williams) to give you that information, because I am certain this gentleman would not do himself justice in it.

“ The

“ The moment I saw the ring, which  
 “ you sent me from India on your first  
 “ arrival there, I knew he must have  
 “ broken open the closet, where I have  
 “ long kept, as I never in my life have  
 “ entrusted the key to any one, out of  
 “ my own possession.

“ Struck at the sight, I was just going  
 “ to proclaim this further villainy, when  
 “ this gentleman stopped my mouth at  
 “ the first word, and shewed me how I  
 “ might make it a means of recovering  
 “ my former loss.

“ Pursuant to his advice, therefore, I  
 “ spoke to the villain in a room by our-  
 “ selves. I shewed him that his hopes of  
 “ enjoying the fruits of his villainy were  
 “ in vain, as his life was inevitably for-  
 “ feited by his breaking open the closet  
 “ from whence he had taken the ring ;  
 “ offering him, at the same time, to sup-  
 “ press this circumstance, and let his life  
 “ be saved, if he would instantly restore  
 “ to me the money he had taken from the  
 “ Bank ; and threatening, in case of his  
 H 6 “ refusal,

“ refusal, to give instant information a-  
 “ gainst him for the ring.

“ He was too well instructed in the  
 “ consequence of all crimes to be igno-  
 “ rant of his danger. All his obduracy  
 “ failed him in the instant ; he fell upon  
 “ his knees, and consented to give up  
 “ every thing, on my promising to spare  
 “ his life.

“ How inestimable is truth ! I gave  
 “ him my promise, and he trusted to it,  
 “ because he had never known it violated.  
 “ He directed me where to find the mo-  
 “ ney, and, in return, I have not charged,  
 “ nor will I charge him with the ring ;  
 “ and consequently he will escape with  
 “ life.”

An universal silence offering me an op-  
 portunity, I could not restrain my desire  
 to be informed, in some particulars, which  
 exceeded my comprehension.

“ Will you indulge the curiosity, the  
 “ ignorance of a stranger to your country  
 “ and

“ and its laws, (said I to the magistrate)  
 “ while I ask you a few questions? What  
 “ did this criminal mean by saying he  
 “ would keep the treasure, of which he  
 “ had robbed his master, to support him  
 “ in the country to which he should be  
 “ banished? I thought robbery was always  
 “ punished with death, to deter others from  
 “ robbing?”

“ So it is, in the severity of the law,  
 “ (answered the magistrate); but this is  
 “ not robbery; it is only breach of trust.”

“ Gracious heaven! (I exclaimed) What  
 “ do I hear? Surely you only sport with  
 “ my ignorance! But this is not candid.  
 “ Is not a breach of trust the highest pos-  
 “ sible instance of dishonesty? And does  
 “ it not aggravate the crime of spoiling  
 “ another (since I must not call it robbery)  
 “ ten thousand fold?”

“ In justice, and in the eye of reason,  
 “ it certainly doth (he answered), but  
 “ our laws view it in another light.”

“ And



“ And can law have any other rule to  
 “ proceed by beside reason? (I replied).  
 “ Any other object in view but jus-  
 “ tice? There is something in this which  
 “ I do not understand; that the greatest  
 “ aggravation of a crime should mitigate  
 “ the punishment of it.”

“ I only inform you of a fact, in an-  
 “ swer to your question (he returned); I  
 “ vindicate it not. Our laws were framed  
 “ with great wisdom, and well adapted to  
 “ the circumstances of the times in which  
 “ they were made. But those circum-  
 “ stances are now changed, which makes  
 “ a change in the laws necessary also.

“ Mercy is the ruling principle of our  
 “ laws. With us no implication can con-  
 “ stitute a crime, or direct a punishment.  
 “ Both must be expressly named in the  
 “ law.

“ At the time our laws were made,  
 “ property was of a different nature from  
 “ what it is at present. It consisted in  
 “ things of which a man could not be de-  
 “ prived.

“prived without some act or menace of  
 “violence. To guard against violence,  
 “therefore, was the care of the legisla-  
 “ture employed. He who should take  
 “any thing immediately from the person  
 “of another, by force or threats, or who  
 “should break open the place where it  
 “had been lodged for safety, was doomed  
 “to suffer death. The former is the  
 “crime charged against the unfortunate  
 “young man to whom this lady shewed  
 “so much beneficence this morning; the  
 “latter, that of this gentleman’s servant,  
 “in respect to the ring.

“As to the greater crime, of which he  
 “is guilty, greater in its nature, as well  
 “as in effect, the law views that in the  
 “less atrocious light of simple theft; be-  
 “cause, at the time when our laws were  
 “made, there was no opportunity for  
 “committing such crimes; no man hav-  
 “ing property in the possession of an-  
 “other, of which he could be deprived  
 “by a breach of trust in his servant, or  
 “employing a servant to fetch or carry  
 “money, the only property with which  
 “he

" he could run away, it being then so  
 " scarce, that those who had any thought  
 " it an object worthy of their own care ;  
 " and therefore no particular punishment,  
 " adequate to the guilt, was ordained for  
 " it."

I was silenced, but not satisfied. Not  
 to remedy such a defect, when discovered,  
 is a most shameful neglect.

" I have said (continued the magistrate)  
 " that the ruling principle of our laws is  
 " mercy. I fear it would have been more  
 " just for me to have ascribed that mercy  
 " to our construction of the laws, than to  
 " the laws themselves, which are certainly  
 " too indiscriminately sanguinary in their  
 " punishments.

" There undoubtedly ought to be a  
 " gradation in punishments, as well as  
 " there are degrees in the crimes for which  
 " they are inflicted. Death is the greatest  
 " punishment man can suffer. When this  
 " is inflicted for a lesser crime, as well as  
 " for the greatest, man, judging from the  
 " con-

“ consequence, fees no difference between  
 “ them, but commits the greater as readily as the less; indeed too often proceeds from the less to the greater, as  
 “ having nothing worse to fear.

“ He, for instance, who has been  
 “ driven by necessity to rob another of a  
 “ few pieces of silver, or break open a  
 “ door, to come at some victuals for the  
 “ instant relief of nature, will rather slay  
 “ the man who attempts to prevent him,  
 “ than be apprehended, because he knows  
 “ that his life is already forfeited by the  
 “ first crime; whereas, were the former  
 “ crimes punished in another manner, and  
 “ murder only punished with death, few  
 “ or none would ever be guilty of the  
 “ atrocious crime.

“ Nor would this lenity, as is mistakenly alledged, encourage the more frequent perpetration of the other crimes.

“ The indiscriminate manner in which  
 “ death is now inflicted, has taken off its  
 “ terrors. The idle not only disregard,  
 “ they



“ they even prefer it to labour ; and  
 “ therefore commit the crimes which are  
 “ punished with it, without fear to obtain  
 “ the means of living in idleness. Now  
 “ were these punished with accumulated  
 “ labour instead of death, the punish-  
 “ ment, I am persuaded, would be found  
 “ more effectual ; and death not being so  
 “ common, would become more ter-  
 “ rible.”

What thinkest thou of this reasoning,  
 O'Chang-ti ? Is not this the very spirit of  
 our laws ? Truth is every where the same ;  
 and prevails in proportion to the improve-  
 ment of the human understanding.

The magistrate had scarcely answered  
 my question in this manner, when ano-  
 ther was started, the solution of which was  
 still less satisfactory to me.

“ Who could have expected an hour  
 “ ago, (said my friend) that this affair  
 “ would have ended so happily ? The se-  
 “ vere loss apprehended in the morning is  
 “ come to nothing. The money found  
 “ upon the wretch, and the ring, I sup-  
 “ pose, have been restored.”

“ The

“ The ring, Madam, (returned the  
 “ magistrate) your friend will recover, be-  
 “ cause his property in it can be proved ;  
 “ but I am sorry I cannot say the same for  
 “ the money. This, as the property of  
 “ the immediate possessor, at least, as  
 “ having no mark to prove the contrary,  
 “ will be claimed by the officers of justice  
 “ who seized him, by a prescription esta-  
 “ blished to encourage the apprehension  
 “ of such spoilers.”

Is this right, my friend? Are these the  
 boasted laws by which we hope to improve  
 ours? To encourage public justice at the  
 expence of private individuals, however  
 unable they may be to bear that expence?  
 Does not this leave the sufferer still unre-  
 dressed? And ought not the reward to be  
 given by the public? These people have  
 strange notions of polity.

\* \* \* \* \*

The magistrate, whom my friend had  
 invited to dine with her the next day, came  
 considerably sooner than we expected. His  
 looks

looks were the harbingers of good tidings.

“ Madam, (said he) I could not deny myself the pleasure of bringing you news, which I know will be pleasing. The innocence of the young man, who interested your compassion so highly yesterday, is now proved.

“ His receiver has been impeached by an accomplice, who was apprehended, for obtaining the young man’s clothes by a false pretence, not only of their nefarious design against the life of his benefactor, but also of several robberies which he has proved so plainly, that the self-convicted wretch hath in despair confessed all; in consequence of which I have restored the young man to his liberty; and do not doubt but the first use he makes of it, will be to pay his duty to his generous benefactress.”

He had scarce said this, when the son and mother entered together, and running up to my friend fell at her feet, and embraced her knees in agonies of gratitude and joy.

It

It was some time after she had raised them, before either had power to speak. The mother at length, having eased her heart by a flood of tears, returned thanks to her benefactress in a manner that shewed she felt more than was in her power to express, while her son confirmed what she said by looks, more eloquent than any words.

As soon as their emotions were a little calmed, "I beg, (said my friend) that you  
 " will not distress me with any more professions of gratitude. The pleasure of  
 " doing service to persons who appear so  
 " well worthy of it, amply over-pays what  
 " I have done. Nor shall I stop here. If  
 " there is any thing farther in my power,  
 " you may depend upon my readiness to  
 " assist you; and that in some better way  
 " of life than your present, if you will  
 " point out to me how I may do it."

" O! Madam, (replied the mother)  
 " your goodness overwhelms my heart.  
 " As for myself, my age and infirmities  
 " make me incapable of any thing. I  
 " must be an useless burthen upon the  
 " earth, till it shall please heaven to take  
 " me



“ me from it. What you may think my  
“ son qualified for, you will be the best  
“ judge when you shall have heard our  
“ unhappy story.

“ My husband was a surgeon, and  
“ practised his art with reputation and  
“ success, till some unfortunate engage-  
“ ments with a designing man, who took  
“ advantage of his good nature, obliged  
“ him to give up his business, and quit  
“ this town.

“ His conduct, however, had made  
“ him friends, by whose interest he soon  
“ was appointed surgeon to a ship of war,  
“ whither he took this our only son,  
“ thank heaven our only child, along  
“ with him, in order to teach him his  
“ own profession, in which he has often  
“ written me word, in happiness of heart,  
“ that his advances answered his most fan-  
“ guine hopes.”

“ But, alas ! these were short lived  
“ hopes. My husband was killed in an  
“ engagement as he was going from his  
“ proper station to the captain’s cabin, to  
“ dress

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“ dress a cut which he had given himself  
“ on his finger the day before, in paring  
“ his nails, and had now made bleed by  
“ picking it.

“ The new surgeon would admit my son  
“ only as an apprentice, or servant, with-  
“ out any pay, though he rated him as his  
“ mate, as his father had done.

“ Our situation would not bear this.  
“ My husband had given up every thing  
“ to his creditors. Far from being able  
“ to supply my son with clothes, and  
“ other necessaries, as his new master re-  
“ quired, I wanted a morsel of bread  
“ myself.

“ My son obtained his discharge from  
“ the captain, the only favour he could  
“ obtain. He came to me to London.  
“ He went to service to support me with  
“ his wages.”

A flood of tears accompanied the conclusion of her unhappy story; nor was there a dry eye present.

My

My friend then asked what education he had had before he had applied himself to learn his father's profession.

“ Madam ! (answered the mother) his  
“ poor father, flattering himself that he  
“ saw in him a capacity for learning, had  
“ him at Eton, where he improved his  
“ time with such rapidity, that he was  
“ just fit to have gone to the university,  
“ whither he had intended to have sent  
“ him ; nor did we then want the means,  
“ when our misfortunes fell upon us.”

“ Well, dear Madam ! (said my  
“ friend) trust in that Providence which  
“ never leaves the virtuous friendless, nor  
“ deserts the widow and the orphan. I  
“ desire to see both you and your son of-  
“ ten. He shall not want the means of  
“ improving his abilities, nor you a com-  
“ fortable support, till he shall be able  
“ to supply you with it. I will not desire  
“ you to stay longer now, as I see your  
“ soul wants rest.”

The mother and son retired, without speaking a word.

My

My friend's relation being now pretty well recovered of his wound, came to see her, just as this poor woman and her son departed; and being informed of their story, appeared so little affected by it, as I could plainly read in the looks of his relation, did him no service in her opinion.

I am sorry to say, that his penitence seemed to have lasted no longer than while his life was in danger. His conversation is rather looser than before, which has made me visit him much seldomer, than I should otherwise have done. He shall no longer be my companion.

Mr. Williams, who was also of our company, informed us, that he had spent the greater part of the morning in the prison with his late clerk, who is now as penitent, as he was obstinate before. This fear of death is a most powerful preacher.

He has confessed his having led a strange course of life for a considerable time past;



but his last crime he imputes entirely to his being member of a drinking society, where the most sacred matters are disputed upon over their liquor, by a parcel of ignorant people, who place their whole pretensions to reason, on peremptorily denying every thing that is believed, and insulting every thing held sacred by the rest of the world; for to argue against them, they are incapable. Pleasures, he said, had irritated, had occupied his passions for a time; but this society overturned every principle of virtue in his mind.

Is it not strange that such societies should be suffered in a country governed by laws?

I could not forbear observing this to the magistrate, who told me that it was not in his power to suppress those meetings, as they were not expressly prohibited by the laws, unless some one would accuse them of having been the immediate cause of injury to a particular person; in which case he would soon put a stop to them; because

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cause the law always presumes innocence, till guilt is proved.

This is a beneficial principle; and though sometimes it may be attended by inconvenience, is certainly better than to entrust man with a greater power, which he might be too liable to abuse.

I could not avoid observing the behaviour of my friend's relation, while Mr. Williams was giving this account. He frequently interrupted him. He affected to disbelieve what he said, to turn it into ridicule. In a word, he shewed the strongest uneasiness all the time he was speaking. Surely the story can not have come too home to him, that conscience did not anticipate the application.

I have thus given you at length the remarkable occurrences of these two full days; and I have given them so entirely at length, in order to make the representation the more perfect. No speculative disquisition, however accurately drawn, can set matters in so clear a light, as when illus-

trated by instances such as these. You now can form a better judgment of the interior polity of this people, than by reading the innumerable volumes written upon it.

LETTER

## LETTER IX.

**I**T is an observation made by curious enquirers into the works of nature, that there is no poison without its antidote, no evil for which there is not a remedy.

The same observation will hold with equal force in the moral, as in the physical world. Every vice is balanced, I will not scruple to say, over-balanced by an opposite virtue; and if those who look into the former were actuated by the same candour in their researches, the picture which they draw of life would not be so black; nor their implied reprehension of its author so presumptuous.

The concern which my friend shewed, when the young man, whom she called her kinsman was wounded, gave me a suspicion, as I informed you, that her regard for him did not proceed barely from  
I 3                      kindred,



kindred, which was removed by her explaining the cause of her attachment to him.

I was not the only one who formed that opinion. The very object of her compassion construed it into love; and built hopes thereon of getting entire possession of that fortune, of which he could otherwise only flatter himself with a distant expectation of a small share.

As she was not conscious of having given encouragement to such a thought, she was the last who perceived the influence which it had upon his conduct from the very beginning of his recovery. On the contrary, she took his officious attention to her every word, look, and motion, as the meer expressions of gratitude and respect, till emboldened by an inattention, which he took for a tacit approbation, he at length proceeded so far, as to make her a formal declaration of love.

Her surprize could be equalled only by her indignation at such an ungrateful insult

sult to her generosity. She directly forbade him ever to come into her sight more; or expect any farther favour from her, till he should have a juster sense of himself, telling him in the warmth of her resentment who he was, and what had been her motive for taking any notice of him.

His situation at such a repulse may be easily conceived. As she had left the room without designing to wait for any answer, he had nothing to do but pay obedience to her orders; especially, as a servant came and repeated them to him, by her direction.

High as her anger had been raised by such an abuse of her beneficence, I could see, when she told me the story an hour or two after, that compassion would soon prevail over her resentment, on his making proper application. She even said she was sorry that she had treated so seriously a folly, which was rather an object of ridicule than wrath; and desired, if he should apply to me to intercede for him, that I would undertake it, on condition of his

changing the whole tenour of his behaviour, and fixing directly on some business for his future life, empowering me to say, that it never had been her intention to do more for him.

But we soon found that he had formed other schemes. On the morning of the eighth day after the breach, a man, who said he was an officer of the law, came to her, and made a formal demand of all the fortune of her late husband, in right of his son and heir, naming as such this young man.

It is impossible to describe the surprize with which such a demand struck my friend. Recollecting herself, however, in an instant, she replied without hesitation, that she possessed nothing which had ever belonged to her husband. Nor if she did, should she give any account of it to him, as she knew he had left no son who could make a legal claim of it.

“ In that, Madam, (he answered) I  
 “ believe you will find yourself mistaken,  
 “ and

“ and that young Mr. Seaport, who has  
 “ hitherto gone by the name of Friend-  
 “ less, for good reasons, which shall be  
 “ given hereafter, is the only legitimate  
 “ son and heir of Thomas Seaport, Esq;  
 “ your late husband, as you are pleased to  
 “ call him, by his only lawful wife, to  
 “ whom he was married before he went  
 “ to India, and who was living at the  
 “ time of your pretended marriage, and  
 “ several years after, as we shall make ap-  
 “ pear in the proper place.

“ In the mean time, Madam, I now  
 “ serve you with these several orders of  
 “ court, to prevent your embezzling any  
 “ more of Mr. Seaport's fortune, till we  
 “ can recover it by law; since you refuse  
 “ to do him justice by fair means, as you  
 “ sufficiently shewed by turning him op-  
 “ probriously out of the house, when he  
 “ made application for it in the humblest  
 “ manner.” — Saying which, he went  
 away, without waiting for any answer.

I was utterly at a loss what to make of  
 such a menace: but my friend saw it in a



proper light; and ever present to herself in difficulty and danger, resolved instantly to take the necessary means to defeat it.

“ Just God ! (said she, falling upon her  
“ knees, and raising her hands and eyes to  
“ heaven, as soon as the officer left the  
“ room) let me not perish by the poison  
“ of a viper, whom I cherished out of  
“ gratitude for thy manifold goodness to  
“ me.”

Then rising and turning to me, “ Come,  
“ my friend, (said she) we must not be  
“ dispirited. This is an attack which  
“ calls for all our courage. Though we  
“ have the justice of heaven and a good  
“ cause to trust to, we must not neglect  
“ our own defence.”

She then took me with her directly to one of the most eminent professors of the law, to whom, after first giving him a purse of gold to sharpen his attention, she related the whole affair, with the manner of her husband's death, the loss of his fortune, her own acquisition of that, which

which she now possessed from the generosity of the Indian chieftan, all which it is unnecessary for me to trouble you with a repetition of, as I have explained them to you before.

The man of law having considered her story for some time, told her, he had no doubt but she would be able to defeat the designs formed against her; but as he doubted not also but they were deeply laid, and would be supported by every iniquitous means, he could not promise her a speedy decision, or that it would not be attended with trouble and expence; and then directed her to a proper agent to conduct her defence, that not being his own immediate business.

Though I had not thought it proper to ask the man of law any questions, the immense bush of hair which covered his head, and the solemnity of his look and manner striking me with awe, I could not forbear asking my friend as we went to the agent's, what the law-officer had meant by calling her's a pretended marriage?

She answered, that in order to give effect to the laws, which admitted not of a plurality of wives, any man convicted of having married a second, during the life of the first, was liable to suffer death; while the second wife, though ignorant of such former marriage, was reputed an adulteress, and both she and her issue incapable of inheriting any part of the husband's fortune. An effectual method of enforcing the law surely.

Having concerted matters with her agent, we returned home, where my friend, supported by conscious innocence, and confidence in heaven's justice, soon recovered her former serenity; though the behaviour of many, who had professed themselves her friends, was sufficient to have shaken a mind of less firmness; the claim of this ungrateful wretch instantly taking wind, and all who had beheld her good fortune with envy, as instantly asserting the justice of it, and anticipating their triumph in her ruin.

The

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The day after this affair had happened, the poor woman, mother to the young man, who had been falsely accused by his base companion, came to pay her respects to my friend, as she desired.

After some questions about her son, and whether he had yet thought of any particular way of life, in which she might be assistant to him; the poor woman, in the course of conversation, took occasion to ask her if she had known in India, a Mr. Thomas Seaport, who, on her describing his person, answered that he had been her husband.

The effect which this answer had upon the enquirer, is not to be described. She could scarce support herself from swooning away.

"Good heaven! Madam, (said my friend, who perceived her disorder) what is the matter? Are you not well?"

"No,



“ No, Madam ! (answered the poor  
 “ woman, all pale and trembling) I am not  
 “ indeed. But it will soon be over, I hope.  
 “ I should not presume to come any where,  
 “ while I am subject to such infirmities.  
 “ But you will forgive a fault, which was  
 “ occasioned by my obedience to your  
 “ own commands.

“ And pray, Madam ! (she continued)  
 “ if I may be forgiven the liberty, what  
 “ was your name ?”

On my friend’s answering, and telling  
 who her father had been, the poor woman  
 seemed to have a return of her former dis-  
 order. She blushed ! she turned pale !  
 she trembled, as if in the agony of  
 death.

The entrance of company prevented  
 my friend’s asking her the meaning of her  
 being so affected, as she was just going.  
 She therefore only desired her not to make  
 any infirmities a reason for not coming to  
 see her as often as she could ; and assuring  
 her of her good wishes, both for herself  
 and

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and her son, forced her to accept of an handsome present, which she promised to repeat every quarter, till something better could be done for them.

There is nothing so dangerous, as to have any connection with a person who has been accustomed to live by shifts.

Groundless as the claim made upon my friend was, the base claimant had availed himself so well of the information which he had at different times collected from herself in the course of conversation, concerning her husband and his affairs, that, with the assistance of his lawyer, he had framed a story, particular, and plausible enough to require the strongest proof to confute it ; especially, in respect to his birth ; for as my friend, in the unguarded warmth of her resentment had told him, as an addition to the reproach of his illegitimacy, that she did not even know the name of his mother, who, she supposed, had been so infamous, that his father had been ashamed to own her, he had taken advantage of that circumstance to fix upon

on a person proper for his purpose, who was lately dead; between whom and his father, the lawyer found convenient witnesses to prove a marriage, as well as the birth of the claimant, and every circumstance necessary to validate his scheme.

As to the real cause of her forbidding him her house, he treated her account of it with contempt, as a falsehood devised for the purpose; as he also denied, with the most hardened effrontery, the account which he had given me of his ignorance of his birth.

The slow process of the law, is an object of universal complaint in this country; but I am now convinced, it is because the reason of it is not understood. It is not, as is commonly said, to give the greater profit to its professors; but to give time for defeating the various attacks of injustice, which are often made with such art, that they cannot be repelled in the first impulse; in which sense it is the best defence of justice, because it is the only test of truth. Had this iniquitous claim  
made

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made upon my friend, been to be instantly decided, she must have fallen a sacrifice to it, so deeply was the scheme laid.

\* \* \* \* \*

These more immediate concerns had so entirely engrossed my friend's mind, that not seeing the young man or his mother, whom she had taken under her protection, for some time, she had not thought any thing of them.

But as we were sitting one morning at breakfast, we were surprized to see him enter, with every mark of anxiety, eagerness, and grief in his face.

Before my friend could ask him any questions, "Madam, (said he, trembling  
" as he spoke) my mother, who has been  
" in a dying way ever since the day you  
" saw her last, takes the liberty to beg  
" that you will come to her directly, and  
" bring your lawyer with you, having  
" something of the greatest consequence  
" to your interest, to discover to you be-  
" fore



“fore her death, which cannot be very  
“distant.”

In the situation my friend was in, it was not natural for her to delay obeying such a summons for a moment, though she could not possibly conceive the occasion of it, nor could the young man inform her. As soon as her lawyer came, therefore, we went all together, where we found the poor woman evidently on the verge of death.

After a few common questions concerning her health, she begged of my friend to order every body, except the lawyer, out of the room; but correcting herself in the instant, “No, (said she) let  
“them stay. Why should I attempt to  
“conceal from a few, what will so soon  
“be known by all the world? Let this  
“voluntary submission to shame and re-  
“proach complete the expiation of a  
“crime, which has cost me a life of grief  
“and repentance. It is not what I shall  
“bear myself which gives me pain, but  
“what my innocent child here present  
“must suffer for me. But the will of  
“heaven

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“ heaven must be obeyed. Better that  
“ he and I should suffer shame, than our  
“ generous benefactress suffer a wrong  
“ which I can prevent.”

Then raising herself on her pillow, while every ear was attentive to a tale so strangely begun, “ You told me, Ma-  
“ dam, (she continued, taking my friend’s  
“ hand, and kissing it most respectfully)  
“ that Mr. Thomas Freeport had been  
“ your husband; and since that I hear  
“ from my son, that a person, whom you  
“ charitably received into your house as  
“ the illegitimate offspring of your hus-  
“ band, has set up a claim to your whole  
“ fortune, and attempted to throw a ble-  
“ mish upon your character, as the law-  
“ ful son and heir of your husband, by  
“ some woman, with whom he has su-  
“ borned false witnesses to prove that he  
“ was married before he went to India.”

“ O! Madam, forgive me! Turn not  
“ away from me, as a disgrace to that sex,  
“ of which you are the highest honour,  
“ when I tell you, that I was the unfor-  
“ tunate

"tunate guilty mother of that more  
 "guilty son; who was not born in wed-  
 "lock, as he alledges, but was the un-  
 "happy fruit of a passion, which too  
 "often breaks the bounds of virtue and  
 "discretion"

"That I have never revealed this be-  
 "fore, was owing to my being ignorant  
 "what was become of him, or whether  
 "he was even living; for in order to con-  
 "ceal my shame from the world, he was  
 "taken from me the hour he came into  
 "it; nor have I ever seen him or his fa-  
 "ther since, as I positively refused to  
 "continue my guilty intercourse with  
 "him.

"Of this strange tale, beside the at-  
 "testation of my own soul, thus trem-  
 "bling on the verge of eternity, I have  
 "only the farther testimony of this letter,  
 "writt-n to me by his father some years  
 "after, and delivered by a stranger,  
 "whom I never saw before, nor since, to  
 "my knowledge. This will inform you  
 "of other particulars, which I have not  
 "now

"now sufficient strength to explain; and  
 "his writing, I presume, is too well  
 "known to admit of doubt." At which  
 word she sunk back upon her pillow, and  
 swooned away.

My friend's agent, who knew the importance of such a discovery, was not a moment at a loss how to avail himself of it.

Having ran his eye over the letter, he desired my friend to stay there, and take all possible care of the poor woman till his return, which should be as soon as possible.

The care of all about her soon brought her to herself, when the tender encouragements and sympathizing consolation of my friend poured balm into her heart, and set her mind at peace. She then gave my friend a letter from herself, which she entreated her not to open till after she should be dead.

In little more than an hour the agent returned, bringing with him a judge, and  
 the



the agent of the poor woman's reprobated son, in presence of whom she regularly repeated all she had said before, and sealed the truth of it with her oath; immediately after having done which, as if it had been her last business in life, she expired in the arms of my friend, before the judge had left the room.

The letter, which she had so carefully preserved, not only agreed with what she had related, but also told the name given to her son in baptism, and the express sum appointed for his support; though it mentioned not his name of family, nor gave her any direction how to find him, in resentment, as alledged, for her refusal to hold farther converse with his father.

Such a testimony turned the scale. My friend has not only defeated the base attempt made upon her fortune and character, but also punished those concerned in it, in an exemplary manner.

I am confident I need not tell you she has not forgotten the young man, her compassion

passion for whom had led the way to this important discovery; but you will probably be agreeably surprized, when I inform you of an additional motive which she had to it.

By the letter which his mother had given her, not to be opened till after her death, she found that the poor lady had been her nearest relation, the youngest sister of her father, which was the cause of her emotion, when she discovered who my friend and her husband were, as reflection upon the consequences of her own misconduct had filled the measure of her woe, a secret which she said she had not revealed to her own son, as she would not reflect disgrace upon one whom her soul held in the highest honour.

But my friend, who had some faint remembrance of her father's having had a sister, who had been abandoned by her family for having married without their approbation, was superior to this false pride. She not only owned her worthy son, but also let her regard for her parents

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outweigh the base ingratitude of the son of her husband, to whom she gave a sum of money sufficient to enable him to earn a support by industry, on condition of his leaving this country directly, that she might never have the pain of seeing him more.

The other she recommended to her friend Mr. Williams, to supply the place of his former unfaithful clerk, where he soon gained the good opinion of the whole family so highly, that he has succeeded to his unworthy brother in the other part of her scheme, and been married to his master's daughter, my friend having given him a fortune equal to her expectation.

Thus happily has ended an affair which has kept my soul in such agitation for several months, that I have not been able to write to you ; for why should I trouble my friend to read that which is a trouble for me to write ? and thus is the justice which governs this world vindicated from those audacious doubts, which my soul was at sometimes almost tempted to entertain of it.

LETTER

## LETTER X.

I Doubt not but you have wondered at my never having taken notice of the professions principally in repute among this people.

The reason has been, that I waited to get some satisfactory knowledge of them myself. I would not give you an account of the truth of which if I was not certain, like the public disputants of this place, who care not whether the arguments they advance are just or not, provided they silence their opponent. Fiction might gratify your curiosity, but I would also inform your reason with truth.

There are in this country three civil professions called *liberal*; I suppose, as freeing the mind from the chain of ignorance and prejudice. These are the sacerdotal, the juris-prudential, and the medical; or, as they are called here, the *Gown*, the



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*Long-robe*, and the *Faculty*. I add the third as coming within the definition, although the two former refuse to rank with it.

There is also a fourth profession, which lays claim to the same title of liberal, perhaps by contradiction. This is the military; or, as it is called, the *Sword*.

The sacerdotal profession has always held the first rank in every state but our's, where it has no rank, as it never mixes with the people, nor enters into their affairs.

The reason of this respect is obvious, and well-founded; the object of the profession being certainly the most important of all human concerns.

It has been observed though, as what human institution can there be which human depravity cannot pervert, that this spiritual respect has been often made to serve temporal purposes, and advantage taken of the ignorance of the people to deprive

deprive them of the good things of this life, as a means of making them happy in a future ; for the power of the clergy is always in proportion to that ignorance.

The struggles on this account between reason and superstition, make the most considerable part of the history of this nation for several ages. But the contest has been for some time decided ; the religion of reason is established, and consequently the usurpations of ignorance at an end.

I have taken the greatest pains to inform myself of this religion, and find, with the greatest pleasure, that except in some unintelligible opinions concerning the nature of the Deity (and what opinion can be other, which pretends to define that which exceeds the powers of the human mind to understand?) their religion is in essence nearly the same with our's. It is simple ; it is sublime ! It affects not to throw a veil of obscurity over subjects in their own nature the most plain, nor makes piety consist in things indifferent.

But why should I be surpris'd at this agreement? Is not truth always and every where the same?

But as there is not any advantage which is not attended with its inconvenience, the simple purity of this religion is so badly adapted to the gross conceptions of the unthinking, that is, of the greater part of this people, that they have very little more than the appearance of religion amongst them, as is the case with us; like causes always producing like effects. They are shewn the absurdities of superstition, but they see nothing else to substitute in its place; for any operation upon their minds must come through their senses.

This want of religion, and its consequence, the want of moral virtue, whose firmest support it is, is generally imputed to want of care and attention in the clergy to enforce by example what they inculcate by precept. But the imputation is most injurious.

When

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When the empire of superstition was overturned, the unnatural empire of one man over the mind of another fell with it. All the clergy can do now is to persuade; and the mind must be properly prepared before it will receive persuasion, which is too seldom the case where there is the present gratification of pleasure, and the pride of imaginary independance to oppose it. The religion of reason can only satisfy the few who think; but it must be superstition which can affect a people.

There is also another cause which weakens the influence of the clergy over the people of this country, which is their want of an independent provision, an indispensable necessary to respect, without which there can be no persuasive influence.

I perhaps should also add their unnecessary number, which partly is the cause of their poverty; at least it makes it the most remarkable.

I call the number unnecessary, because, as they are appointed solely to administer



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the rites of religion to the people, more than is necessary for that purpose are not only useless in themselves, but also an injury to the state, by depriving it of so many members who might be of use in other professions, this profession being secluded from all other services by their institution. The number therefore ought, in good policy, to be restricted within certain bounds.

Other objections made to the clergy appear to be equally injurious, when applied to them as a body. Among such a number it is impossible but there must be some unworthy individuals; but there is no greater error, no greater fallacy, than concluding from particulars; from the abuse against the use. Judge of the aggregate by the majority, and I am persuaded the judgment will be greatly in their favour.

Were what I have here said to be read in this country, I am sensible that the general voice would be raised against me, there being no topic so popular as the abuse of the clergy. But that weighs not with me. I seek truth wherever to be found,

found, and will do justice without regarding whom it may displease.

I have the happiness of great intimacy with a clergyman in this city, who, in a late conversation on this subject, gave me the following account of himself, which will be the best illustration of what I have said.

“ I was born (said he) in a distant part  
“ of the kingdom, where my father, who  
“ was also a clergyman, lived to old age,  
“ and brought up a family of six children  
“ without reproach upon an income of  
“ thirty pounds a year, paid him for serving  
“ the cures of two parishes, which  
“ yielded to the absent incumbent three  
“ hundred.

“ I, who was his first-born, received  
“ from him the rudiments of a good education,  
“ though he could not please himself with any prospect of its turning to  
“ my advantage in the way of gaining a  
“ support in life, he having neither interest  
“ nor fortune to support me through

“ the study necessary for my entering into  
“ any of the learned professions. But the  
“ beneficence of heaven exceeded his ex-  
“ pectation.

“ A lady of fortune, who had an house  
“ in the parish where we lived, in which  
“ she usually spent the summer months,  
“ was so generous as to send me to Oxford  
“ as a companion to her son, who had  
“ conceived a regard for me, where I  
“ went through the course of the Univer-  
“ sity with some credit. But just when  
“ I might have hoped to reap some ad-  
“ vantage from my standing, I was called  
“ home by the nearer duty of taking care  
“ of my father, who had lost the use of  
“ his limbs by a stroke of the palsy. The  
“ lady here stood my friend again, and  
“ prevailed upon the bishop to give me  
“ orders; by which means I was enabled  
“ to do my father’s duty, and save him  
“ from wanting a morsel of bread in his  
“ old age.

“ I had performed this pleasing duty  
“ for ten years, when the incumbent of  
“ our

“ our parishes died. The parishioners,  
 “ who honoured my father as their own,  
 “ and loved me as a brother, went in a  
 “ body to the bishop, and besought him  
 “ to give me the living, or at least one of  
 “ the parishes, setting forth the virtues and  
 “ distressed circumstances of my father,  
 “ and my care of him, in the strongest  
 “ colours they were able, to induce him to  
 “ comply with their request.

“ But the bishop viewed the matter in  
 “ another light ; and disapproving their  
 “ presumption in thinking themselves of  
 “ sufficient consequence to make such an  
 “ application to him, without seeming to  
 “ pay any attention to their representation  
 “ of my father’s distresses, he answered  
 “ them slightly that he was engaged ; nor  
 “ would even promise to desire the new  
 “ incumbent to continue me in the cu-  
 “ racy.

“ As the good people were returning  
 “ home, unhappy in being the hearers of  
 “ these sad tidings, their way led them by  
 “ the seat of a nobleman, who happening



“ to be at his door, and seeing such a  
 “ body of well looking people together,  
 “ had the curiosity to enquire whither  
 “ they were going, upon which they told  
 “ him the whole story.

“ His generous heart was affected. He  
 “ commended their zeal to serve so wor-  
 “ thy an object as they represented my  
 “ father to be ; and inviting them into his  
 “ house, directed them to be hospitably  
 “ entertained, for the bishop had not  
 “ asked them to wet their lips.

“ Nor did he stop here. He directly  
 “ ordered his equipage, and went to pay  
 “ a visit to the bishop, from whom he  
 “ took occasion to ask if he had yet dis-  
 “ posed of our living.

“ The bishop, pleased to have the op-  
 “ portunity of obliging a man of his con-  
 “ sequence, answered that he had not ;  
 “ adding, that if his lordship had any  
 “ friend whom he was desirous of serving,  
 “ he should be happy to give it to him.”

“ This

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“ This was directly what his lordship  
“ wanted. He accepted the offer, and  
“ named me ; but without telling his rea-  
“ son, scorning to exert such a triumph  
“ over him.

“ The bishop, though evidently as  
 “ much embarrassed as he was surprized,  
 “ could not retract his offer. He would  
 “ even have made a merit with the public  
 “ of his beneficence to my father; but his  
 “ lordship defeated that attempt, by re-  
 “ lating the whole story.

“ I need not say what was the happiness  
“ of my heart upon this occasion. I  
“ was able to lighten the affliction of  
“ sickness upon my father, by delivering  
“ him from the apprehensions of want,  
“ and to close his eyes in comfort.

“ I was able to support my aged mother, and provide for my brothers and sisters with decency ; and I was able to shew the greatest sense which my heart felt, of the friendship of my parishioners.”

“ners, with whom I still lived, as their  
“brother, in every respect.

“I had not been wanting in paying my  
“sincere thanks to my beneficent patron,  
“but the use I made of his beneficence,  
“was more pleasing to him, than any  
“professions. He honoured me with his  
“friendship; and as soon as the death of  
“my father set me, in some respect, at li-  
“berty, for never did I lay me down to  
“sleep one night, while he lived, without  
“praying at his bed side; I could not re-  
“fuse complying with his request, to tra-  
“vel with his son, which I had the less re-  
“luctance to do, as I had now a brother  
“in orders, to whom I could commit the  
“performance of any duty with assurance,  
“that he would execute it in the manner I  
“could wish.

“On my return from abroad, I would  
“have retired to my living, and content-  
“edly devoted the rest of my days to a  
“duty so pleasing to me; but my patron  
“would not permit me.

“He

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“ He was so well satisfied with the  
“ manner in which I had discharged the  
“ important trust he had honoured me  
“ with, that he not only procured me  
“ from the minister, a living in this city  
“ of much greater value than my own ;  
“ but also the liberty of resigning that to  
“ my brother, so that I am not separated  
“ from the home, the friends of my  
“ youth, with whom I pass a month in  
“ happiness every year.

“ My only care now is to make a pro-  
“ per use of the good things of this world,  
“ which heaven hath bestowed upon me  
“ with so liberal an hand.”

Does not one such clergyman as this,  
O Chang-ti, over-balance the failings of  
a thousand others in the scale of reason,  
candour, and justice ? Will he not do ho-  
nour to the mitre which visibly hangs over  
his head ?

LETTER



## LETTER XI.

**T**HE profession of the law, though only the second in rank, may in many respects be considered as the first in consequence, because of the greater opportunity it has of acquiring wealth, the only solid foundation of respect and power in this country.

Viewed in a speculative light, nothing, humanely speaking, can deserve higher respect than a profession, in which a man devotes the labours of his life to the support of justice. But when the practice of the professors is taken into the view, I apprehend that respect will be greatly lessened.

Instead of labouring to support justice, their labour is only to procure success to the cause in which they are employed for hire, without ever considering whether it is just or not. On the contrary, they always appear to exert greater efforts, in the support

support of a cause which is unjust, as a lure to others to employ them in the like, there being no cause so flagrantly iniquitous, that a large fee will not engage lawyers of the first eminence in their profession, to appear in its support.

Nor are the means made use of by them on these occasions, less illiberal, than the end is unjust. They apply to the passions of the judges, when they are conscious that they cannot convince their reason, and strive, by every base and injurious imputation, to raise a prejudice against their opponent, without any regard to decency, or even truth, in what they say.

It should naturally be thought, that such a conduct must raise a prejudice against themselves; but the contrary is the fact. Neither engaging in a bad cause, nor being defeated in a good one, does any injury to the character of a lawyer, provided he shews abilities in it.

The reason of this, beside the reciprocal indulgence which the universal prevalence  
of

of avarice inspires, is the custom of paying lawyers beforehand ; so that it is the same thing to them, whether they succeed or not ; nor will this abuse of their profession ever be prevented, till that method is abolished, and their payment made to depend upon success. Then, and then only, will they be careful not to engage in a bad cause.

Some time after the decision of the iniquitous claim made upon my friend by the base-born son of her husband, I dined along with her one day, at the house of a person of distinction, where there was a number of people of rank ; and among them a lawyer of great eminence, who had been employed by her adversary, and exerted all his ability in his behalf, even to loading her with the lowest personal abuse.

I own my heart revolted against sitting at the same table with a man capable of such prostitution ; but so far was he from being ashamed of it, or even appearing to think it wrong, that he addressed the greatest

test part of his conversation to her for the whole day, saying more than once, that he had been very sorry for his being engaged against her, when she sent to retain him, as she had done, as soon as the attack was made upon her, having from the first had a bad opinion of his client's cause.

What would our Sovereign say ; what would'st thou say, to an advocate, who had made such a speech before you in Quang-tong ? Never would a tongue so prostituted, be permitted to speak more.

But though this is the general rule of the profession, it is not without exception in more than one illustrious instance.

The lawyer, who defended my friend's just cause, has always steadily refused to undertake any one which he did not think so. If he has not been always right in that opinion, it has been owing to the partial representations made by his clients of their own causes, not to any want of judgment in



in him. Nay, to such an uncommon height has he carried the purity of this principle, that he nobly resigned an office of great dignity and emolument, rather than do that which he thought unjust. Such men are an honour to the most honourable profession.

LETTER

## LETTER XII.

**T**HERE is an appearance of injustice in ranking the medical profession, after the jurif-prudential, when their respective objects are considered, health being certainly of more value to man than fortune.

This injustice though is not of modern date. When lawyers ruled the Roman commonwealth, physic was reckoned the profession of a slave.

Whence this could arise is hard to conceive. Perhaps from want of knowledge in the profession, which required a deeper insight into the works of nature, and her manner of effecting them, than had been then, or indeed till very lately gained by man.

But, be that as it may; this profession is carried here to a very great height. It is literally made a profession of reason.  
There

There is not a part of the human body, whose construction is not perfectly understood ; nor an ailment, to which it is subject, that is not traced regularly to its cause.

Such a knowledge would only add to human misery, by shewing us the infinite variety of dangers, with which we are surrounded, if there were not also remedies discovered for them.

For this purpose, every production of the animal, mineral, and vegetable kingdoms have been reduced to their first principles, the configuration of their parts, on which their power, and mode of action depends, discovered ; and the effects of that action for the cure of every particular ailment proved by experiment, and delineated for use. In a word, the profession of physic, as I have said before, is in this country a rational profession, in the truest sense.

Nor are the time and application necessary for investigating so extensive a subject,

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subject, unrewarded by the profits arising from the practice of this profession. A physician of eminence never fails to make an ample fortune.

But it is to be feared, that the temptation of making such a fortune too often gives rise to a most destructive abuse of the profession. This is, by prolonging a disease, in order to encrease the profits of attendance on it; the mode of remuneration in this profession being like that in the juris-prudential.

This abuse, therefore, is to be removed only by the same alteration, of never paying till the disease is at an end, either by cure or death; and in the latter case, only in proportion to the circumstances of the disease; for it would not be just to make the remuneration depend entirely on success, in this profession, as in the juris-prudential, the subject of it not being possible to be submitted to the same accuracy of consideration, nor the event determinable by any certain rule. We can know how a judge ought to decide; but we cannot



not know how the Deity may please to dispose of his creatures.

But there is another abuse by many degrees greater, and of worse consequence than this, to which this profession is most injuriously subjected. This is the intrusion of unqualified persons into the practice of it.

On my first arrival in this city I was surprized to read in the accounts of new occurrences, published here every day, infallible remedies for most of the ailments and accidents to which the human body is liable; and many of them under the sanction of the royal authority. "Happy people, (said I to myself) of how many evils is life eased among you!"

But how was my surprize turned into indignation, when upon farther enquiry I found that all those boasted remedies were the grossest imposition, put by empirics, equally impudent and ignorant, upon the credulity and weakness of the public, the best of them being barely insignificant,

but

but much the greater part most ruinously prejudicial to health.

The permission of such an abuse, in a state which pretends to good government, is most unaccountable. But what can be said to that very government's giving an implicit sanction to it, by prohibiting the imitation of these pretended remedies, in order to secure the profits arising from the sale of them to the first inventors, as a reward for their ingenuity? Take the fact upon my assertion, but expect not any reasoning upon it. It is unnecessary.

To what an height of impudence these empirics will venture to rise, you may judge by the following affair, which happened since my arrival in this country.

A young prince of the royal house being seized with one of those diseases, which proceeding from a general failure in the animal oeconomy, are seldom possible to be cured; an empiric, who without any pretence to the simplest rudiments of liberal education, having been bred to one  
of

of the meanest of the mechanic trades, had taken upon him to recommend a medicine to the public, which he made up without knowledge, and gave without judgment, on the credit of some antiquated receipt, had the effrontery to offer his assistance to the prince; and on his offers being rejected with just disdain by his royal relations, publicly to charge his death, which had been long foreseen, and happened soon after, on their neglect of his assistance. And all this with impunity.—O Chang-ti, is not this strange?

But these caitiffs do not always escape so well. A young nobleman, who was on the point of being married, and heard that the irregularity of his past life might have had bad effects upon his constitution, applied lately to one of them, who proposed for sale a certain remedy for every disorder of the kind.

No person of reason, who was able to pay for the assistance of a physician of repute (for the great mischief wrought by these impostors proceeds from their vending

vending their pretended medicines so cheaply, that the poor are tempted to use them on that account) would have ran the hazard of applying to one of these.

But this youth, thoughtless and precipitate in all his actions, took the pompous pretences of the empiric for truth, and without farther reflection rashly swallowed the dose.

It was not long though, before he had reason to repent of his rashness. There had been a mistake in the composition, which instantly produced the most terrible effect. His eyes seemed ready to start out of his head, and his whole body began to swell in the strangest manner.

Another young nobleman, who happened to be with him at the time, directly took the alarm. They neither knew what to do. In the first madness of affright, the injured patient snatched up the rest of the pretended medicine, for he had taken but the third part of it, and girding on his sword, they both ran directly to



the empiric, whom, unluckily for him, they found at home.

The sufferer was by this time terrible to behold. The minute the empiric saw him, he conjectured the cause of his situation, and would have made his escape; but the other, though now unable to articulate a word, had still strength to prevent him. He drew his sword, and being seconded by his companion, obliged the trembling wretch to swallow the rest of the composition, to avoid their putting him to instant death. They both escaped most narrowly with their lives.

Would it not be justice to oblige every man who proposes a medicine to sale, first to make proof that it is harmless at least, by taking it himself?

LETTER

## LETTER XIII.

THE last of the professions called *liberal*, and justly so ranked, though it arrogates the precedence to itself, is the military; a profession, whose first effect is to overturn all the other, however the future establishment of them in greater safety may be its pretended end.

This profession is so totally different in this country from what it is with us, that it requires a particular description to be made intelligible to you.

War is here a trade, learned regularly at home; and the conduct of it studied upon principles which pretend to demonstration.

That impetuous courage in assault, which chiefly determines the matter with us, is reprobated here. An intrepid firmness in the face of danger, and cool obedience to command, are the only qualifications required in a soldier, where myriads are

slain without a stroke of the sword, and the victory gained by fire-arms, the use of which they have brought to a perfection truly dreadful.

In this cool intrepidity, this power over nature to stand to be shot at, the soldiers of this country are said to exceed all others. Indeed they seldom have been vanquished in the field, where the fault has not been evidently in their commander; whereas, by their resolution, they have often remedied that fault, and snatched the victory against rule.

Nor is their manner of fighting more different from our's than the other operations of their warfare. Before a war is undertaken, the expence of it is calculated, and provided for, and every kind of military store laid in readiness for use, in the places where they shall be wanted, before the armies take the field, where they have no other hardships or difficulties to encounter, but what are opposed to them by the immediate efforts of their enemies; for which reason they exert all their art in  
making

making various movements, in order to gain the advantage of situation, the ultimate object of their aim, and that on which victory almost always depends, without feeling any of those wants and inconveniencies which make our unprovided armies seek the instant decision of a battle.

In such a kind of warfare, it is evident that personal strength is of little avail to the leaders, who enter not into personal conflict with the sword, nor encumber themselves with armour of defence, which cannot avail against the force of the cannon. It is therefore held in no respect. An officer here rather affects infirmity of body to enhance the merit of the strength of his mind. And this is the reason of that effeminacy in their behaviour, which appears so inconsistent with their profession, and gives such just offence. While they fear not man in war, they think they have a right to all the fears and foibles of woman in peace.

I went yesterday morning to return the visit of a military officer, whom I had



known in India. He was seated at his breakfast of the choicest tea of Hyson, which he sip'd out of the most elegant porcelain of Nankin. His head was wrapped in a coif, bordered with the finest lace; his temples bound with a ribband of the colour of a rose; a gown of the silk of chintz of Peking, flowed loose around him; he had hose of white silk on his legs, and his feet were half covered with slippers of the leather of Tarquestan.

As soon as he had finished his breakfast, he asked permission to dress before me; and on my assenting, a person, in an habit peculiarly trim entered, and pulling off his stockings instantly, set about clipping away the horny excrescences on the ends of the articulations of his feet; at every touch he gave to which, the military man winced; and with looks of the strongest apprehension, begged of the doctor to take care. The operation took up just half an hour.

This doctor was succeeded directly by another, dressed in the formal garb of a physician,

physician, who, pulling a case of instruments out of his pocket, and opening a box brought by his own servant in a gaudy livery, which contained pots of ointment, bottles of liquid, and boxes of powders of various sorts and colours; the military man reclined his head on the back of the chair, and having conjured the doctor not to hurt him, opened his mouth, in which the other went to work, with all his filthy mixtures, in such a nauseous manner, that I was obliged to turn away from the sight, or my stomach would certainly have disgorged its contents. This hateful operation, which he called dressing his teeth, took up another half hour.

Afterwards, when the horse had recovered his spirits, after the fatigue of these two important operations, a third operator entered, more extraordinary in his appearance than all the rest. His hair was tied up in a bush, at the back of his head, as big as an horse's tail. His coat had been green, and bound with gold; his waistcoat had been blue with holes of silver; both covered so thick with meal, that it was

difficult to distinguish their colours. In a word, there was nothing natural, nothing of a piece about him.

He no sooner entered, than advancing to the gentleman with an air of familiarity, he threw a loose robe over his shoulders, which covered him all over, and then taking off his coif, immediately dishevelled his hair in such a manner, that he looked like one of the frantic votaries of the idol Wistnaw; when clearing out of it, with a toothed instrument made of the tusk of an elephant, a quantity of dirty meal and grease disgusting to the sight, he worked his hair about, sometimes twisting it up in pieces of paper, which he squeezed between heated irons, till he forced it up into a bush; then dishevelling it again, till at length, by the help of grease and meal, he tortured it into a figure which nature had never imposed upon an human head. This operation consumed as much time as the two former.

Having then put on his garments, I imagined the work of the morning was over.



over. But I was mistaken. He had scarce finished his dressing, when the figure of Foppery herself slid into the room humming a tune.

“ Ah ! Monsieur ! (said the man of war  
“ as soon as he saw him) How could you  
“ stay so late ? You promised to have been  
“ here before breakfast, and I waited se-  
“ veral minutes for you.”

“ Ah ! Mon Dieu ! (answered the  
“ other, in a jargon between the language  
“ of this country and that of the French,  
“ which would be unintelligible to you,  
“ and I shall therefore not strive to imi-  
“ tate), I would have attended your ho-  
“ nour to the moment, but I was pre-  
“ vented by the first minister of state, who  
“ was delayed from taking his lesson above  
“ an hour, by some cursed dispatches from  
“ Holland, which I could not hinder his  
“ stopping to open, though I told him  
“ how unreasonable it was to make me  
“ wait. But allons ! we will soon bring  
“ up our lost time.”



I was utterly at a loss to conceive what lesson of sufficient importance, to interfere with the business of the state, this extraordinary personage could have to teach the minister; but I was soon informed; by his present pupil's telling him, it was not in his power to attend to him then, as he was just going out; and therefore that he would only practise the bow at entrance and departure, and walk one turn round the room.

The man of mode instantly took his pupil by the hand, and leading him into the middle of the room, humming a tune, as nurses do to infants when they are first coaxing them to walk, he taught him to scrape his feet upon the floor, and bend his body into half a score antic postures; and then leading him to the door, walked off with a smile of affected approbation.

This teacher of the feet was succeeded by one for the tongue; but the scholar had not time to do more with him that day, than just to read over a set of polite phrases in the language of the French, which

which the master brought to him for the embellishment of his discourse.

The scene was closed by a ferocious-looking fellow, the first sight of whom shewed me that he professed the noble science of defence ; but he also had come too late.

The gentleman now thinking he had sufficiently displayed his diligence to me, would not run the hazard of disordering his dress by a single posture. All the master was permitted to do for his visit, was barely to adjust the hanging of his sword.

When his levee was thus dismissed, I could not forbear observing to him, that all of them were of the country with which he had so lately been at war.

He smiled, and squeezing my hand,  
 “ My dear friend (said he) it is but just  
 “ to let them earn back some of the mo-  
 “ ney we have taken from them. Be-  
 “ side, the truth is, they are the only  
 L 6 “ people

“ people in the word who have any notion of politeness. Our own are such awkward brutes, that there is no bearing them. Give me English soldiers, but French teachers and servants always.”

He then attended me to the door, when he went into one of the pabankeens of this country, to be carried across the street, though the weather was uncommonly fine, while I walked away, sick at the manner in which I had wasted my morning.

What thinketh my friend at this mode of life for a military man? Could you have conceived it to be true if I had not in some measure accounted for the reason of it? And are these the soldiers who spread their victories from Pole to Pole?

But they may go too far! The body has greater influence on the mind than is commonly thought, or easy to be understood. The effeminacy of the former may affect the latter, and then all their glory will be at an end.

LETTER

## L E T T E R XIV.

**I** Have praised the laws of this country !  
 I retract that praise ! or, not to be unjust ! I restrain to particulars, that which was spoken generally ; and confine my praise within very narrow limits.

As I was returning home from the Bourse one day, about the second hour after the noon, I was stopped in the street by three ill-favoured ruffians, one of whom telling me he had a warrant against me, the other two instantly seized, and drag'd me like a malefactor to a prison house, in the bottom of a dark alley, where I was shut in, among a number of wretches, whose looks spoke misery and vice.

It was in vain for me to ask what they meant ; to plead innocence, and alledge that they must have mistaken me for some other person. The miscreants only insulted my distress, telling me with scoffs, that



that they were not to be imposed upon in such a manner.

It is impossible for me to describe what I felt at such treatment. I was for some time absolutely stupified with horror and affright. Reason, however, at length came to my aid. I blushed at my own weakness; and calling upon the God of justice for support, expected the event with the firmness of a man.

I had not been in the prison-house above an hour, when one of that dispersed people, who having been driven from their own country for their crimes, have spread themselves over the face of the earth, though persecuted and detested wherever they go, came to me; and with an assured look, asked me whether it would not be better for me to pay him his money than remain in prison, as I certainly should, if to the end of my life, till he should be paid.

This speech confirmed me in my opinion that I was mistaken for some other person.

person. I told him so mildly, and assured him that I had never seen his face before; neither did I owe money to any man living, as I would convince him, if he would permit me to send for my friends.

But instead of paying regard to my words, he only loaded me with abuse. "You never saw me, (said he) and you owe me no money! Thou lyest, thou idolatrous heathen; and the truth is not in thee! Did I not sell you a parcel of diamonds in Bengal for three lacs of rupees, with which you ran away to this country instead of paying me, as I have three honest men, who were witnesses to our bargain, to prove."

"I then again desired permission to send for my friends, who would convince him of his mistake, but in vain. He bade me give him an order upon my broker, Mr. Williams, for the large diamond, which I had given him to sell for me, and he would on receipt of it discharge me; otherwise I should stay there

“there to the end of my life; saying it  
“was his own diamond, one of those  
“which I had defrauded him of at Ben-  
“gal.”

I saw it was in vain for me to reason with him, and therefore I replied not. Enraged at my silence, which he called obstinacy, he would have proceeded from curses and revilings to strokes, had not the keeper of the prison prevented him.

Religned to the protection of that power which supports the world, I sat down; and turning my eyes in upon my own heart, found consolation there. One happiness I derived from their cruelty, I was alone.

It may be imagined that my thoughts could not be very pleasing in such a situation; but that was not the case. I was at peace with myself, and regarded not the power of any human enemy.

As to the injustice under which I laboured, I covenanted with myself not to yield to it. The diamond he required was  
not



not mine to give him, even had I been weak enough to purchase my liberty so poorly. It is that which our sovereign gave me, to purchase with the price of it any works of mechanism, and matters of learned curiosity, which I should think may be entertaining in his own studies, or useful to his people, as models for their imitation; for it must be acknowledged that the mechanic arts are carried to much greater perfection here than with us; and though I could out of my own property have paid the sum of money which he claimed as a debt; I would not be so far an accomplice in his iniquity, though against myself, as to do it: beside, I was assured that in a city where there is such intelligence, I could not be long secreted from the enquiries of my friends.

When my thoughts had wearied themselves in revolving these matters, I sunk insensibly into a soft sleep, when imagination instantly transported me to the tent of Tait-tong, where I thought you and I were sitting beside the sage, listening in happy rapture to the words of his wisdom.

“ Virtue,



“Virtue, (methought he said) is proved  
“by adversity. That which is not su-  
“perior to the evils incident to life, is  
“but an empty name.”

I awoke in happiness; and far from  
whining at my present situation, I con-  
sidered it as a combat which was to crown  
me with glory.

In the morning I was visited again by  
my pretended creditor, in company with  
three of his brethren, if possible more ill-  
favoured than himself, and the keeper of  
the prison-house.

He again demanded payment of his  
debt, or an order for the diamond, of  
which he said I had defrauded him, as he  
could prove by the testimony of the three  
men present, whom he had brought with  
him from Bengal for that purpose, on  
finding that I had fled from thence.

My answer was the same as before, to  
which I only added, that he should never  
receive other answer from me; nor even  
another

another word, till he should let me see my friends.

He grew outrageous! He loaded me with revilings and curses, and even spit his rheum in my face; but still I lost not the command of myself, nor answered him a word.

When he and his brethren were gone, the keeper of the prison-house advised me, with a badly counterfeited appearance of friendship, to make up the matter with my creditor, lest he should be provoked to charge me criminally, with what he now claimed only as a debt, the consequence of which could not but be fatal to me.

I thanked him for his advice in terms of civility, but declined following it; as I said I never had seen, much less had dealings with the man before, and therefore depended upon my innocence to protect me.

“Why,

“ Why, Sir, (he returned) perhaps you  
 “ may think that will do. But let me  
 “ tell you, innocence signifies nothing  
 “ against proof; and that your adversary  
 “ will not want, whichever he pleases to  
 “ make the case, a debt or a felony;  
 “ those people always swear through thick  
 “ and thin for one another; and they are  
 “ so cunning, that the devil himself can-  
 “ not detect them. So you think all the  
 “ men who escape the gallows are inno-  
 “ cent, and all who suffer guilty? No, no,  
 “ that is all a mistake! Proof, proof is  
 “ the thing! No matter whether a man is  
 “ innocent or guilty, he must depend  
 “ upon proof. Instead of innocence be-  
 “ ing sufficient to defend a man, it is  
 “ much oftener the cause of his being  
 “ condemned; because trusting to that,  
 “ he does not take care to provide proof,  
 “ for which reason ten innocent men suffer  
 “ for one who is really guilty.”

I answered that I was sorry to hear such  
 an account of the laws of his country,  
 which I had heard so highly celebrated for  
 their justice; but that be the event what  
 it

would I would trust to them, and to my own innocence.

He shook his head, and asked me what I would eat, observing that I must be hungry, as not having eaten since I came into his house, which he said was the fault of the servant, who had forgotten to ask me.

I replied that it mattered not whose the fault had been, as I was determined not to taste bread while I should be unjustly detained there.

In this state I continued that day and the next, visited morning and evening by my pretended creditor, who thought proper to change his mode of attack from curses to expostulations, from revilings to advice, but without any better success. I never answered him a word.

Nor was I more compliant with the entreaties of the keeper of the prison-house and his wife to eat. I tasted not bread,  
nor



nor moistened my lips with a drop of water.

This firmness, which they called obstinacy, I saw alarmed them. The woman insisted, in my hearing, that I should be sent to some other prison, saying, that she would not hazard the consequence of my dying in her house, to please any circumcised Jew of them all; nor was it without difficulty that he could prevail upon her to let me remain, till the Jew should come again the next morning.

But I was not to owe my deliverance to her compassion, or rather interested fears for herself. In a few minutes after this conversation, I was surprized to hear the noise of loud voices upon the stairs, which led up to the chamber in which I was imprisoned; when instantly the door was opened, and in rushed Mr. Williams, in company with the worthy magistrate, of whom I have made mention before, and half a dozen other people.

I flew

I flew to my friend. I clasped him in my arms; and forgetting all my firmness, melted with tears upon his bosom.

The magistrate, after saluting me in the kindest manner, turned to the keeper of the prison house, and demanded by what authority I had been brought thither, and detained so long? whereupon they shewed him an order for my imprisonment, granted upon an oath made by the Jew, that I was indebted to him in a sum of ten thousand pieces of gold of the coin of the country.

The magistrate then asked me, if I had ever had any dealings with the man; to which I answered, as was the truth, that far from having had dealings with him, I had never even seen his face in my life, to my knowledge, till he came to me there; and then related all that he had said to me.

The moment I mentioned his desiring me to give an order for the diamond, Mr. Williams saw through the whole affair.  
He

He remembered that such a man, as I described, had applied to him to buy it; and asked a variety of questions concerning the person to whom it belonged, undoubtedly in order to frame his present demand the more plausibly against me.

But this was not the matter to be considered then. The magistrate demanded of the keeper of the prison house, whether he would accept of Mr. Williams and him as sureties for me; to which the other, after some little hesitation consenting, I was restored to my liberty, and to my friends.

Having gone through all the necessary formalities which I shall not attempt to describe, as far from understanding them myself, I sometimes had reason to think them not well understood by those who conducted them, they had so many consultations, and so often changed their manner of proceeding, the justice of the Jew's demand upon me came to be tried in a court of law, where I had too good reason to remember what had been told me by the keeper of the prison house; for so fully  
was

was it proved by the testimonies of his three brethren, that justice must have submitted to proof, had I depended solely upon that for my defence.

But, while the eyes of all present were fixed upon me, to see what I could oppose to a demand so well made out, my friend, the magistrate, applied to the judge, to prevent the Jew and his witnesses from departing out of the court, having something to alledge against them, which would shew the credit due to their testimony.

At the first mention of this, they all instantly attempted to fly, but the magistrate, who had foreseen that, had placed his people to intercept them, by whom they were brought back into the court, where it was proved beyond a possibility of doubt or denial, that the witnesses, at the very time they had sworn themselves to have been present in Bengal at my buying this, and several other diamonds from the Jew, and promising to pay him for them, were actually prisoners here, on a criminal

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charge of receiving stolen goods, for which they had narrowly escaped suffering death, by the testimony of some of their present brethren, one of whom was this very Jew, who claimed the debt from me, and had sworn to their having bought the goods honestly in the open street at noon day, from persons unknown to them, as they wandered about in their usual occupation of buying old clothes.

This determined their demand upon me, from which I was discharged at the expence of near one hundred pieces of gold ; a dear price to pay for justice !

Nor was that all ! They were committed to prison, to be tried for their perjury, as if a crime perpetrated in the very presence of the judge, and admitted by him in the decision of my cause, could require the proof of a farther trial, when I understand it will cost me as dearly to convict them, as it did to defend myself against them.

Are

Are not these strange laws? And can this be called a country of justice or liberty, where a man can be sent to prison, on a claim of debt, supported by no other proof, but the bare oath of the interested claimant, and in which prison, if he cannot find sufficient sureties, he must remain for several months, before he can recover his liberty by law, should he then be able to pay for the recovery of it; and where all the redress, which the injured sufferer can hope to obtain, if he is able also to pay for obtaining it, is to make his oppressor suffer a punishment of public infamy, as if any man could commit such a crime, who was not dead to every sense of shame?

Would it not be more consistent with justice, more likely to prevent the repetition of such villainies, to keep the perpetrators of them in prison till they should pay to the injured sufferer the very sum which they had attempted to wrong him of, as interest only can have influence upon souls so wickedly sordid?

## LETTER XV.

I Dined yesterday in a company, which I am confident could not be matched in any other country under heaven. Can you believe it? There was a woman, a woman of distinction, and two men, to both of whom she has been married; to both of whom she has even borne children. A circumstance so strange, so contrary to every known custom, every idea of order or decency, must be explained to obtain belief.

I have told you that in this country marriage is contracted for life. I should have added that, in certain cases, there is a possibility of dissolving this contract.

The most common of these is infidelity in the wife, on proving which, her husband has a right to be separated from her, and marry another woman.

This

This right is just, and the reason of it obvious. It is the only means of restoring domestic happiness to an injured man, and securing to his family the inheritance of their ancestors, which might otherwise devolve to the spurious offspring of an incontinent wife.

But this very right, so beneficently intended, is perverted into an encouragement of the very vice it was given to prevent.

If a wife now has a mind to change her husband, she has no more to do than to suffer herself to be detected in the bed of adultery with her lover, her husband then obtains a divorce, and she is directly at liberty to marry as she likes.

This strange abuse is a new invention to defeat the intent of marriage for life; at least the practice of it is new; but it will not much longer be strange. It is grown so common, that it is to be supposed there will be some provision made for it in the



marriage contract, to avoid the trouble and expence which attend it at present.

But as the matter stands now, the advantage is not equal to the married pair. The man has not the same power of getting rid of his wife, as she has of changing her husband, let him dislike her never so much. The cause of divorce must come from her. If she chuses to be continent, or to conceal her incontinency, he must drag his chain as long as he lives, let it gall him never so severely. The more I know of these people, the more unintelligible their customs appear to me.

The situation of these people affected me so much, that I was afraid to let my eye turn to any of them, lest I should be thought to stare,

But they were under no such embarrassment. They talked with ease to each other on different matters. Even the wife was not ashamed to address her discourse occasionally to her former husband.

Good

Good heaven, is this consistent with her delicacy of a sex, whose characteristic is chastity? Is it consistent with that sense of honour, which among this people runs such lengths on trifles, for a man to keep company with another, who has dishonoured him thus grossly in the tenderest part? The meanest Chinese would never eat bread, while the defiler of his marriage bed was alive, much less enter into the sacred bonds of hospitality, by eating it along with him. Every thing among this people is inconsistent, every thing is unaccountable.

There was in the company one of those men of unbridled vivacity, who, from having been told they have wit, perhaps merely out of ridicule, think themselves entitled not only to say whatever they please, but also to have whatever they say admired.

This man of wit took it into his head, in the torrent of his talk, to ask the former husband of this doubly-married lady, whether there was any truth in what he

had heard, that he was going to be married again; and on the other's answering in the affirmative, "Then take it as a piece of advice from me, (said he) before you marry to oblige the father of your bride to bear the expence of your divorcing her, as will probably be the case."

All the rest of the company looked down abashed, while he stared around him with surprize not to hear his wit echoed by a loud laugh, as usual. Unfortunately, the first good thing he ever said in his life missed of applause for want of being properly timed.

These professed wits are generally egre-  
gious fools.

## LETTER XVI.

I Received a visit this morning, which gave me equal joy and surprize.

I have informed you, that soon after I came into this country, I restored to his liberty a worthy man, by paying a sum of money for which he had been drawn, by a complication of villainy, into debt to the state.

The first use he made of his liberty was, to seek the villain who had been the cause of his confinement; of his meeting and transactions with whom he has given me the following account:

“ I could not propose to myself any  
“ enjoyment of the liberty to which I had  
“ been so unexpectedly restored by your  
“ most generous beneficence, (said he) till  
“ I should first endeavour to obtain justice  
“ from the base villain, who had been the  
“ author of my ruin.

M 5

“ I had



" I had long known that he lived at  
 " Marseilles, where, during the late war  
 " between this country and France, he  
 " had raised an affluent fortune in trade,  
 " out of the spoils of which he had  
 " robbed me; and whither I had often  
 " written to him in the most moving  
 " terms, but could never obtain any an-  
 " swer.

" In order to effect this design, I di-  
 " rectly procured authentic certificates of  
 " the cause and length of my confine-  
 " ment, my engagement for him, the  
 " seizure of my fortune, in consequence  
 " of his running away, and the amount  
 " of what I had been compelled to pay  
 " for him.

" Provided with these attestations of the  
 " justice of my demand upon him, I set  
 " out for Marseilles, carrying letters of  
 " recommendation to several of the prin-  
 " cipal merchants there.

" I had no difficulty to find him on my  
 " arrival, as he lived in princely magnifi-  
 " cence.

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“ cence. The moment he saw me, he  
“ started, and turned pale as death, but  
“ recovering himself instantly, he deter-  
“ mined to pursue his former system of  
“ behaviour; and with the most harden-  
“ ed impudence, not only denied his ever  
“ having had any knowledge of me, but  
“ also threatened to have me taken up as  
“ an impostor, and sent to the galleys, if  
“ he should ever hear of me any more.  
“ All my arguments, all my expostula-  
“ tions were in vain. He ordered his  
“ servants to turn me out of his house  
“ with ignominy.

“ I then delivered my letters of recom-  
“ mendation, but with little avail. His  
“ vindictive temper was so well known,  
“ and he was so powerfully supported by  
“ the government, that no one would run  
“ the hazard of drawing his resentment  
“ upon his own head, in behalf of a stran-  
“ ger.

“ In this situation I formed the despe-  
“ rate resolution of appealing directly to  
“ heaven, since I could not hope for jus-

“ tice from man ; by putting him and  
“ myself to death, for I could not bear  
“ the thought of living under such op-  
“ pression. All I waited for was, an op-  
“ portunity of executing this resolution  
“ in the most public and striking manner.  
“ But heaven saved me from the guilt of  
“ such an horrid act.

“ As I was walking one day along the  
“ road, beside the stupendous cliffs which  
“ hang over the sea, revolving various  
“ projects for the execution of my de-  
“ sign, I saw a carriage with two children  
“ in it, run away with by the horses, which  
“ had thrown their driver, and were gal-  
“ loping forward with the most furious  
“ violence toward the cliff.

“ The desperate situation of the chil-  
“ dren instantly struck me ! Without ever  
“ considering the danger of the attempt,  
“ or that they were only strangers to me,  
“ I rushed forward in the immediate im-  
“ pulse of humanity, and seized the horses  
“ heads, on the very brink of the precipice,  
“ just time enough to prevent their plung-  
“ ing

“ ing down, and save the children in the  
 “ chaise from a fall, which seemed inevita-  
 “ ble ; but I effected not this without in-  
 “ jury to myself ; the horses in their rage  
 “ having thrown me down, and in tramp-  
 “ ling on me, broken one of my legs.”

“ As there were numbers of people  
 “ present, though none of them had had  
 “ resolution to attempt stopping the horses,  
 “ when the danger was over, we soon had  
 “ help enough.”

“ The children, whom I had saved in  
 “ this signal manner, were the son and  
 “ daughter of a nobleman, whose house  
 “ was not far distant ; he had been ap-  
 “ prized of their danger, and was running  
 “ frantic with despair to enquire their fate,  
 “ when he met us.”

“ His joy may be easily conceived. He  
 “ wept a few tears of joy and tenderness  
 “ upon the necks of his children ; and  
 “ then learning to whom they owed their  
 “ preservation, and how dearly it had cost  
 “ me, he turned all his attention to me.”

“ I had



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“ I had desired to be carried to the inn  
 “ where I lodged, but he would not ad-  
 “ mit it ; I was taken to his palace, where  
 “ I wanted nothing which opulence, and  
 “ the most tender care could provide for  
 “ me.

“ A violent fever was the immediate  
 “ consequence of my hurt, in which I  
 “ was for several days delirious. On the  
 “ return of my reason, my beneficent  
 “ host, whose care of me had never been  
 “ slackened for a single moment, took  
 “ occasion to observe to me, one day,  
 “ that in my ravings I had frequently  
 “ mentioned the name of my undoer in  
 “ the bitterest terms, though from his  
 “ own imperfect knowledge of the Eng-  
 “ lish language, in which I spoke, and the  
 “ natural incoherencies of my state, he  
 “ had not been able to comprehend the  
 “ cause of my resentment to him.

“ I could have no scruple to acquaint  
 “ him with what I meant not to keep se-  
 “ cret. I even owned the resolution, up-  
 “ on the means of executing which I was  
 “ meditating,

“ meditating, when I had the happiness  
 “ of saving the lives of his children.

“ He heard me with sympathetic at-  
 “ tention ; and desiring me to drop all  
 “ thoughts of an act, equally contrary to  
 “ the laws of God and man ; and by  
 “ which I must suffer as much, too proba-  
 “ bly much more than he, who had done  
 “ me wrong, he promised to employ  
 “ means for obtaining me redress, which  
 “ he had reason to hope would not be in-  
 “ effectual.

“ For this purpose, without making any  
 “ application to my robber, which we  
 “ were sensible could only serve to put  
 “ him on his guard, as soon as I was able  
 “ to travel we set off together for the court,  
 “ where he laid my affair, with all the  
 “ attestations of it, before the minister,  
 “ in so strong a light, that he obtained an  
 “ order for seizing the villain and all his  
 “ effects, till he should do me that justice  
 “ to which I had proved myself so well  
 “ entitled.

“ This

" This was an act not regularly in the  
 " course of law ; but the principles of  
 " that government admit such interpo-  
 " sitions of absolute power ; and where  
 " power is properly applied, its absolute-  
 " ness is the perfection of government,  
 " as I have read is the case in your coun-  
 " try.

" The villain had raised his fortune  
 " chiefly by betraying the secrets of his  
 " native country during the war, through  
 " the means of an intercourse which he  
 " kept up with some of his former affo-  
 " ciates in office under the government.

" But his services were now at an end,  
 " and the remembrance of that base proflig-  
 " acy of principle, by which they had  
 " been performed, still remained. Trea-  
 " chery may be turned to use, but the  
 " betrayer is always detested.

" The situation of the wretch, when  
 " he saw me enter the house, along with  
 " the proper officers of law, to put this  
 " order in execution, is not to be de-  
 " scribed.

“ scribed. His surprize was equal to his  
 “ late security ! His abjectness to his in-  
 “ solence. He threw himself at my feet.  
 “ He besought me with many tears to  
 “ have mercy on him, offering to make  
 “ me instant restitution of all I had lost,  
 “ and recompence me to my satisfaction  
 “ for what I had suffered, if I would pro-  
 “ ceed no farther.

“ But the matter was now in other  
 “ hands ; nor could I have stopped, even  
 “ had I been so inclined.

“ His fears of the consequence of hav-  
 “ ing all his effects seized were not with-  
 “ out foundation. Among his papers  
 “ were found sufficient proofs that he had  
 “ completed the character of a villain, by  
 “ betraying the secrets of the country he  
 “ was in, as well as those of his own.

“ All my demands upon him have been  
 “ paid. The residue of his wealth, ac-  
 “ cumulated by such manifold villainy,  
 “ confiscated to the state ; and himself  
 “ thrown



“ thrown into a prison, from which no  
 “ man ever returns.”

O, my friend, who can hear this, without adoring that justice which so signally rules the world ?

It will be no improper sequel to the above, to inform you that Mr. Williams also has obtained justice by the laws of his country, from the person who had been the base cause of his misfortunes.

LETTER

## LETTER XVII.

**I** Went yesterday to pay a visit of respect to the nobleman who, I have informed you, honours me with permission to call him my friend.

We were just entering into a conversation, from which I should have learned wisdom, when we were interrupted by the entrance of a young man, whose appearance spoke magnificence and wealth, while every feature of his face simpered with self-complacency, and contempt for all the rest of mankind.

After slightly informing his lordship who he was, he added, “ that having a design  
“ to stand for a borough in his neighbour-  
“ hood, he had done himself the honour to  
“ come and pay his lordship the compli-  
“ ment of desiring his interest.”

“ I have a proper sense of your com-  
“ pliment ! (answered his lordship, with  
“ a dig-

“ a dignity sufficient to humble Vanity  
“ herself) But, Sir, I have not the honour  
“ of knowing you. How, therefore, can  
“ you expect that I should recommend  
“ you to the most important trust possible  
“ to be reposed in man? A trust to which  
“ I would not recommend any man, for  
“ whose faithful discharge of it I could not  
“ stake my own faith.”

“ As for that matter (replied the happy  
“ man) I do not mean to give your lord-  
“ ship any trouble on the occasion—I have  
“ settled the affair already, and only come  
“ to pay you the compliment of course.”

“ I am much obliged to you, Sir, (re-  
“ turned his lordship) and glad that you  
“ have been so successful, as I cannot  
“ doubt but a young gentleman who has  
“ so large a stake in his country, will  
“ never act contrary to its interest. I  
“ presume you have promised your elec-  
“ tors so much, and that you will on all  
“ important occasions follow their advice,  
“ or resign back their trust to them!”

“ Not

“ Not I truly, my Lord, (he answered)  
 “ I gave them no promise of the kind;  
 “ nor do I intend to pay them any such  
 “ attention. They had not the presump-  
 “ tion to mention such matters to me.”

“ How then did you gain their confi-  
 “ dence so implicitly? (replied his lord-  
 “ ship) I understood they had determined  
 “ to stipulate those terms.”

“ Their confidence indeed! (he repeated,  
 “ with an affected laugh) I neither gain-  
 “ ed, nor even desired to gain it. I sent  
 “ down a borough-monger, who settled  
 “ the price, and then I went to the mi-  
 “ nister to obviate an opposition. That  
 “ was all I did. I had other employment  
 “ for my time than to waste it in paying  
 “ court to a parcel of greasy tradesmen  
 “ and their wives, and making them pro-  
 “ mises which they could have no right to  
 “ expect I should perform, after having  
 “ bought and paid for them.”

“ Gracious heaven! (ejaculated his  
 “ lordship) to what state of venality will  
 “ man



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“ man sink at last, when they will sell  
“ thus a right upon which their enjoy-  
“ ment of every real blessing of life de-  
“ pends? A right which their ancestors  
“ nobly cemented with their blood, and  
“ left to them as their best inheritance.”

“ And pray, my Lord, (returned the  
“ other) will you give me leave to ask  
“ what real difference is there between the  
“ present mode of managing these mat-  
“ ters, and that of former times?

“ The people then paid their represen-  
“ tatives for the trouble and expence of  
“ attending their affairs in parliament.  
“ At present the representatives pay the  
“ people for chusing them, and then assist  
“ the minister to lay a tax upon their  
“ electors for their reimbursement. It is  
“ just playing out of one hand into the  
“ other. All comes to the same end.

“ What difference there is appears  
“ plainly to be in favour of the present  
“ mode; as a gentleman now is paid  
“ genteely, as he ought to be, and that  
“ too

“ too without so great inconvenience to  
 “ his constituents, as they used to find in  
 “ paying the former paltry stipend, be-  
 “ cause at present it is levied upon the  
 “ people in general, whereas the consti-  
 “ tuents were then obliged to supply the  
 “ whole themselves.”

I should have requested of his lordship  
 an explanation of matters so unintelligible  
 to me; but his kind attention prevented  
 me the moment his visitor left the room.

“ You will probably be surprized to  
 “ hear, (said he) that the subject which  
 “ this thoughtless young man treated with  
 “ such an air of levity, is one of the most  
 “ important that can possibly interest the  
 “ human heart. It is the people’s choice  
 “ of their representatives in the great  
 “ council of the nation.

“ The season is now approaching, when  
 “ the share held by the people in the le-  
 “ gislature will devolve into their own  
 “ hands, till they shall elect another re-  
 “ presentative body, the term for which  
 “ they

“ they intrusted it to the present being  
“ near its expiration.

“ It should be thought that a choice of  
“ such moment must engage their most  
“ earnest, most anxious care. But the  
“ contrary is the fact.

“ Instead of attending to the characters  
“ and qualifications of the persons who  
“ offer themselves to their choice, the  
“ whole people will be kept in a state of  
“ ebriety, next to madness, during the  
“ transaction, by the purchasers of their  
“ dearest rights, thus virtually set up to  
“ sale, in order to prevent their seeing the  
“ desperate absurdity of what they are  
“ doing.

“ To explain this, in some degree, it  
“ is necessary to observe, that the king-  
“ dom is really represented by less than  
“ a fourth part, which is called the re-  
“ presentative of the people.

“ That part is generally chosen in con-  
“ sequence of their landed property in the  
“ places

“ places which they represent.—As for  
 “ the rest, the terrible majority, it is a  
 “ most melancholy truth, that they are  
 “ generally appointed, I cannot say cho-  
 “ sen, in the manner this young man de-  
 “ scribed, without even knowing, or be-  
 “ ing known to, their improvident ap-  
 “ pointers.

“ This evil, and the danger which it  
 “ threatens, are sufficiently known; but  
 “ it is now grown so inveterate, so inter-  
 “ woven with the constitution, that I  
 “ much fear it is not possible to attempt  
 “ remedying it without running ha-  
 “ zards still more dangerous. We must  
 “ wait with patience for the will of hea-  
 “ ven.”

And yet, O, my friend, this is called  
 the best form of government, and the  
 people said to be the most free of all the  
 sons of men! How are these things to be  
 reconciled? And do they deserve a conti-  
 nuance of the freedom, of whose value  
 they appear to be so insensible?



## LETTER XVIII.

**I** Have this moment received notice that there is a packet of letters arrived for me from my own country, but that I cannot receive them till tomorrow. What a tedious interval of eagerness and impatience!

Perhaps these letters bring me information that the cause of my melancholy pilgrimage is removed by the death of the unhappy wife of Moufab. I will indulge the thought. It is balm to my heart.

Start not at my saying this. My conscience exculpates me of any crime in it. It is evident from that guilty letter, that her return to reason and virtue was impossible. As she could not therefore be happy in life, death is an happiness to her! As I wish not for her death on any other account, there can be no crime in my rejoicing at the thought of that, which must be matter of joy to herself.

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I shall then return to all I hold dear in this world. I shall embrace the companion of my youth, the partner of my heart, my friend, my Chang-ti.

### END OF THE SECOND VOLUME